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1949

Magrath's  
**Golden  
Jubilee**



*commemorating*  
*50 Years of Irrigation*

*Magrath, Alberta*  
*July 24th, 25th and 26th, 1949*

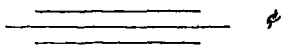
**Official Jubilee Book**

*Congratulations . . .*

**MAGRATH**

— on your —

**Golden Jubilee**



**Alberta Canning Co.**

**Packers of**

**"MIGHTY MAMMOTH" PEAS**

**"TINY TEDDY" PEAS**

**"GOODNESS ME"**

Peas — Beans — Corn

**"SPRING PACK"**

Peas — Beans — Corn

**"CLEAN PACK"**

Peas — Beans — Corn

## FOREWORD

The General Committee of the Magrath Golden Jubilee, headed by His Worship, Mayor E. P. Tanner, desire to sincerely thank all those who have so willingly contributed in any way to the success of the Jubilee Celebration.

We thank those who have assisted in the preparation of this Booklet, the Advertisers especially, who have made its publication possible from a financial standpoint.

The "GARDEN CITY"-welcomes you to its 1949 Golden Jubilee Celebration. We sincerely hope that your visit is a pleasant one

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## A Message from the Mayor



On our fiftieth anniversary we wish to pay tribute to our Pioneers, who built better than they knew.

Many have passed to their reward, but they laid well the foundation of our community, which is located in one of the choicest spots of the Dominion.

With our industry payrolls, the products of our two major ones finding a ready market all over western Canada, our present irrigation system, and proposed larger irrigation development, our splendid wheat and beet fields, and cattle ranches, we are indeed a favored and blessed people. Let us appreciate and cherish our wonderful heritage, and do what we can to pass on to our descendants an inheritance they will be proud of in generations to come.

E. PINGREE TANNER, Sr.,  
Mayor, Town of Magrath.



Plugging along for nearly half a hundred years. There may be one or two older stores south of Calgary. Twenty-three full-time clerks, six part time. We sell most everything. Folks have been very kind and considerate of us. Thanks.

*The*  
**Magrath Trading Co. Ltd.**

**"A GOOD PLACE TO TRADE"**

## Charles Ora Card



That venerable pioneer; the founder and for 20 years of Cardston.

He was originally in charge of the construction of the first irrigation canal from Kimball to Stirling.

In 1886 Charles Ora Card, president of the Cache Stake of the Latter Day Saint Church in Utah, with two associates, was sent to find suitable lands for new settlement for the members of the church. It was their first intention to go to Mexico, but President John Taylor, President of the Church, advised against this, directing them to Canada, where said he "you will find British justice". They journeyed through Idaho, Washington, the interior of British Columbia, thence east from Kamloops to Calgary over the newly completed main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

In British Columbia they were told by an old mountaineer of the grass covered "buffalo plains" to the east, and not being impressed with the narrow valleys of that region, pushed on towards the prairies. From Calgary the veteran colonizer drove south by team and eventually selected the site on Lee's Creek for settlement, which became the present Town of Cardston.



C. A. MAGRATH

## A Message from . . .

C. A. Magrath

J. A. Spencer, Esq., Secretary,  
1949 Golden Jubilee Celebration,  
Magrath, Alberta.

Dear Mr. Spencer:

I much appreciate your letter of the 19th inst. giving an outline of the Jubilee Celebration the citizens of Magrath are contemplating to commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the settlement of the district and the introduction of irrigation.

I am deeply appreciative of your suggestion that I act as Honorary President of the Celebration. Unfortunately I have not been physically up to much of late and am certain that it would be utterly impossible for me to think of attending, or taking an active part in the event, much as I would like to be able to do so. If the committee desire to do so, in the face of the above statement, I would be greatly honored by being named as Honorary President of the event, but it must be understood that it will be impossible for me to take any active part in it.

I will certainly follow the action taken by the community in carrying out the programme and hope that you may have a real celebration which will be long remembered. The events which have happened in the development of your district and that of Southern Alberta during the past fifty years certainly warrant rejoicing over, and I will hope that every success will follow your undertaking.

I have always had a deep interest in your district and you have my very best wishes for an abundant and prosperous success during the years ahead.

Yours sincerely,

C. A. MAGRATH.



## *Congratulations are in order*

This year, 1949, is Magrath's Golden Anniversary Year. While such an anniversary is always important, in the case of Magrath it is particularly appropriate. As a key point in Canada's oldest irrigation system, all Magrath's years have been "golden".

Where arid, dust-bowl land, capable of producing very little, might have existed, there is today, and has been through all the town's history, one of the most productive areas in the province.

The people of Alberta congratulate Magrath on 50 years of tireless effort to promote the welfare of the province and extend the wish that many more "golden years" will follow.



## The Government of The Province of Alberta

Department of Economic Affairs

HON. A. J. HOOKE,  
Minister

RALPH R. MOORE,  
Deputy Minister



## C. H. Dudley Family



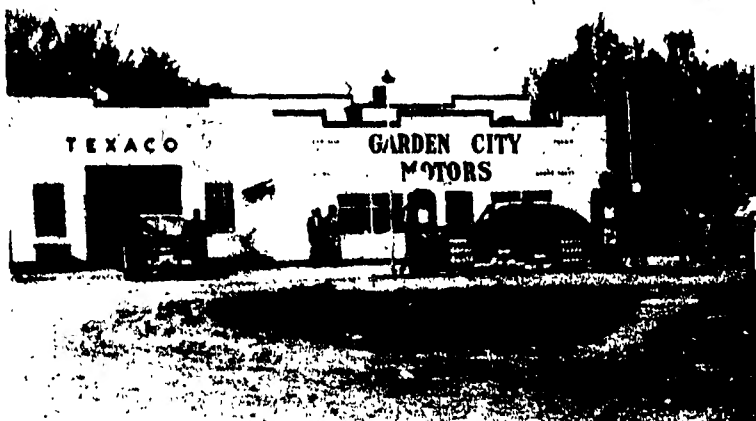
Charles Heber Dudley, honored as the first permanent settler to locate on the townsite of Magrath; pitched his tent on the Pot Hole Creek April 20th, 1899. He and Mrs. Dudley and their large family have given valuable contribution to Magrath and district.

WISHING YOU EVERY SUCCESS  
In the Celebration of Your  
GOLDEN JUBILEE



*Alberta Sugar Beet Growers*

PHIL BAKER, President



Clarence Rhyason Supplies Our  
TEXACO PRODUCTS



*Thanks For Your Patronage*



We Sell  
**Plymouth, Chrysler & Fargo**  
From  
**Imperial Motors Ltd.**

**"We Sell You the Goods and Give You the Service"**

## Founder of the Range Sheep Industry Levi Harker



He was another pioneer who brought his family from Utah in a "Prairie Schooner," covered wagon. They arrived in Cardston in 1892.

He had been a very successful sheep farmer in Utah and when he saw the marvellous growth of native grass on these Alberta prairies he at once realized what a golden opportunity there was for sheep men in this country.

With this thought in mind he with his brother Ephrium Harker, who had preceded him to Cardston by five years, began to build up their flock.

Feed was plentiful; the natural grass; everywhere it was in such quantities that for a number of years it was not even necessary to put up hay for winter feed.

The flocks grew and multiplied until there were 19,000 head of them ranging the prairies near and on the banks of the Pothole Creek. These men made history again for they were among the ones to introduce the idea of "Range Sheep" and the "Sheep Range" into Alberta. Their famous Shropshires became known far and wide and were the foundation stock from which many of the great herds of Western Canada were to be built.

# **EATON'S**

## **Salute . . .**

## **to MAGRATH**

EATON'S in Lethbridge proudly join with all Southern Alberta to pay tribute to Magrath, on this the Golden Jubilee of the "Garden City".

It's a proud and historic occasion for the beautiful town for the event also marks the inauguration of irrigation in Southern Alberta half a century ago. Since that time Magrath has flourished and progressed with irrigation as all Southern Alberta has done.

It is only fitting at this time that just tribute be paid to those pioneers of yesteryear whose foresight and determination proved the foundation of progress for Magrath.

We humbly salute you, Magrath!

**THE T. EATON CO.**  
WESTERN LIMITED  
**BRANCH STORE**

Lethbridge, Alberta

## The Founding

MAGRATH FROM PIONEER 1899 TO VILLAGE, 1901

On the occasion of its Golden Jubilee, Magrath steps aside to view the panorama of the fifty years of its life as a town and to recount some of the incidents that have filled those years with adventure, romance and development.

To say that Magrath has had a romantic history is putting it lightly; she has had a career dual in nature; romantic and realistic. Perhaps the old timers would emphasize the latter rather than the former. But think for a moment. Laid in the midst of a trackless prairie, but in a pleasant and beautiful spot in the Pot Hole Valley, settled by a hardy, persevering band of pioneers who encountered all the hardships of colonization, but up and expanded until today we have a prosperous community and a beautiful countryside. This is a fairy tale in real life. Surely a romance; surely a reality—Magrath the Garden City of Alberta.

Strange or romantic as it may seem, Magrath owes its beginning to coal, for the discovery of coal on a commercial scale "The Galt Coal Mines" at Lethbridge was the parent of irrigation and irrigation was the parent of Magrath.

Here is the story. The Galts, founders of Lethbridge, having opened up rich deposits of coal at Lethbridge, and having railway construction to their new coal fields, secured grants of Crown land in what is now Southern Alberta. These lands had to be made to produce, and this was done by bringing water from the St. Mary River; the genesis of irrigation on a large scale in Western Canada, and required a canal from the river at Kimball to the railroad station of Stirling.



Elliott T. Galt

The leaders of the Latter Day Saints (Mormon) Church being desirous that more of its members should settle in Alberta, entered into an agreement with the Alberta Irrigation Company to construct such a canal. Following are some of the stipulations of the contract: (see Encyclopedic History of Church by Jensen)—That work should begin not later than Sept. 1st, 1898; that contractors should accept part cash and part land in payment for their labors; that two such

*Greetings to the*  
*"Garden City"*

ON HER

## **50th Anniversary**

We Carry a Complete Line Of

BUILDING MATERIALS



HARDWARE



HOME FURNISHINGS



**..TANNER..**

Building Supplies Ltd.

blocks of land should be located in the vicinity of Stirling and Magrath; that by December 31st, 1899, there should be at least 250 inhabitants on each of these townsites; and that by Dec. 31st, 1899 the contractors should have earned at least \$100,000 in cash and land.

Work on the canal commenced (near Kimball) in September 1898, President Charles Ora Card holding the plow that turned the first furrow.

The church then subcontracted the work at the same terms they were getting from the company. President Card had immediate charge of the work until 1899, when the management was transferred to M. D. Hammond. In order to make the undertaking a success the church authorities called men and their families to work on the canal and also to become settlers in one of these new towns.

This had the desired effect, the required number of inhabitants was secured and the required sum of money earned by the contractors. The townsite of Magrath was located in the fall of 1898 and named in honor of Mr. Charles Alexander Magrath, member of the Northwest Council of the Canadian Government representing the Lethbridge District.

The first permanent settler on the townsite was Charles Heber Dudley of Willard, Utah, who located on the Pot Hole Creek April 20th, 1899. On the third day May Ramus Rasmussen, Parley Carter and Fred H. Turner with their families pitched their tents where the home of Oscar Blumel now stands. They had come from Utah, a distance of 700 miles, and the new townsite of Magrath must have looked rather cheerless to these weary immigrants. By fall settlement in the new community had become general and the names of Fletcher, Evans, Naylor, Dudley, Rasmussen, Turner, Blumel, Gibb, Crookston, Rich, Meldrum, Bennett, Woolley, Mercer, Ririe, Harker and Head were soon heard in these fast awakening prairies. Levi Harker was called to preside as bishop over the new L.D.S. Ward of the Church with Ammon Mercer and Eli Bennett as his councillors.

The spring of 1900—the dawn of the new century and the commencement of a wonderful era of progress and development found Magrath the abode of some 300 inhabitants; the A.R. and I. Railroad completed to Spring Coulee; the first railroad train entered Magrath October 17th, 1900. About 10,000 bushels of grain were raised in the settlement in that year and commencement was made for the erection of a meeting house.

In 1901 it was organized into a village with Mr. Jasper J. Head elected first overseer.

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The first Band consisted of: Leader, George Birch, trumpet; Delbert Rich, snare drum; Clayton Rich, bass drum.

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Welcome  
TO THE  
**Magrath**  
*Golden Jubilee!*

**GREYHOUND**

*C*

*Congratulations to the Citizens of  
"The Garden City of Alberta"  
On Your Fiftieth Birthday*



From a firm which appreciates your patronage  
over the years.

May God grant you a future as bright with  
achievement as your past.

**Parrish & Heimbecker Limited**



## Jasper J. Head



The first Overseer of the Village of Magrath came to Canada in the year 1889. He was one of those men who brought their families in a covered wagon all the long way from Utah, driving their cattle along with them.

His first interests were given to cattle and sheep in Cardston. He moved to Magrath in 1900 where he continued in these lines.

He was elected overseer of the village at its incorporation in the year 1901.

*Good Luck . . .*

. . . And continuing prosperity to the "wonderful" people of Magrath and Southern Alberta.

*Thank you for making our store, YOUR  
Store for your Clothing Requirements.*

**WE WON'T LET YOU WEAR IT UNLESS IT FITS.**

For a Suit that'll fit, that'll fit just YOU

see your

**Towne Hall Shop**

701 - 3rd Ave. South - Lethbridge  
Opposite Bank of Nova Scotia and Galt Gardens.

50 YEARS

50 YEARS

50 YEARS

# **Birthday Greetings ... MAGRATH!!**

From

# **ELLISON**

**Milling and Elevator Company Limited**

**THE PIONEER FLOUR MILLING AND GRAIN FIRM  
IN SOUTHERN ALBERTA**

50 YEARS

50 YEARS

50 YEARS

## An Incident in the Early Days

Hyde Taylor

Hyrum W. Taylor, brother of John W. Taylor the Canadian Apostle, came to Canada with his wife and son Hyde in the year 1892. Their first home was on the St. Mary River about nine miles north of where Magrath now stands. Hyde calls to mind the following incident.

"One day father and mother and I were riding in the "buckboard". As we drove up the long road out of the river valley and came to the ridge which overlooks the present site of the town, father pointed to the southeast where there were no fences, no buildings, not even any landmarks and said: 'John says another town is to be built there.'" (John was his brother, John W. Taylor, and the town to be built was Magrath.)



Hyde Taylor

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## The First Home



The small section of house to the left in this picture was the first house to be completed in the town. It was one of the first five houses built by the church. Work on these houses commenced in May, 1899, and was built by James Evans.

# Alberta Pacific Grain Co. Ltd.

The pioneer grain company salutes the pioneers of Magrath and Southern Alberta whom they have had the pleasure of serving for nearly half a century.

May your adventurous pioneering spirit be carried on through future generations.

*"Serving Albertans Serving You"*

With your requirements in

and all

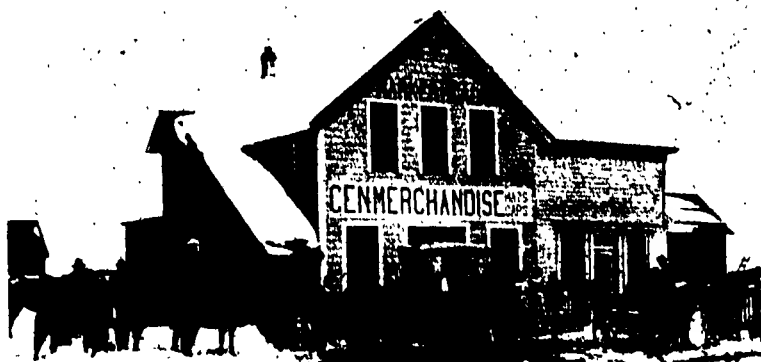
Building Materials



**Beaver (Alberta) Lumber Limited**

B. F. COOMBS, Branch Manager

## First School House



The early settlers of Magrath were quick to recognize their responsibility regarding the education of their young people, hence in the first months of the year 1900 a public meeting was called to consider the possibilities of providing a school.

Said Lars Larson: "I move dat we haf a school and dat Broder Jacobs, he teach." Carried.

Accordingly, the first school opened its doors in the upper room of the Harker-Head General Store, with Mr. Z. W. Jacobs as the teacher. Some of the first students of the school were: Walter Blumell, Earl, Charles and Lynn Harker, Henry Rasmussen, Smith and Marion Ackroyd, Ammon Mercer, Ether Gibb (Smith), Afton Harrison (Anderson), Fanny Harrison (Powell), Will Ririe, Nellie Bennett (McBride), Katie Fletcher (Llewellyn), Laura Ririe (Bridge), Olive Ririe (Bradshaw), Mildred Hillier (Bradshaw), Annie Hillier (Bigelow), Jessie Hillier (Searle), Grace Woolley (Olsen), Hattie Dudley (Emmett), (Win) Woolley, Newel Rich. (With apologies for any omissions.)

This first school room continued to serve as a place of learning until a new meeting house could be built, which when completed served the rolls of Church House, Amusement Hall and School House. From there the next move was into the rather pretentious frame structure which was torn down in 1909 at the completion of the present Public School Building.

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L. E. Pharis won international honors for Magrath in 1948 by placing 3rd at the Chicago International Fair, and 7th at Toronto with his exhibit of Marquis wheat.

## *Congratulations*

On 50 Years of Splendid Growth  
and Development

# **Beny Cheverolet-Oldsmobile Ltd.**

*Chevrolet - Oldsmobile - Cadillac  
Chevrolet and Maple Leaf Trucks*

SALES AND SERVICE

When in Medicine Hat try Beny Motors Ltd.  
General Motors Dealers

WE CONGRATULATE . . .

## **MAGRATH**

on this, it's

**50th ANNIVERSARY**

Long may it prosper as a strong link in the chain of progress. Throughout the past half century it has built a reputation as a vital bastion in the economic and spiritual life of our Southern Alberta Community. We look forward to its days of ever-increasing strength.

## **Western Canada Hardware LIMITED LETHBRIDGE**

Distributors of the Tools with which men of vision build and develop the resources of our country—your local hardware man is one of our esteemed customers.

## A Pioneer Couple



Of the married people resident in Magrath on the date of its founding, 1899, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Crichfield are the only remaining couple. They were married May 8th, 1897, at Mission House, Denver, Colorado. They came to Magrath June 5th, 1899, where they have made their home ever since. The above photograph was taken on their golden wedding day May 8th, 1947.

They are both enjoying good health, are active members of the community and Church, and seem perfectly contented to spend their retiring years in their modern home which Mr. Crichfield and his sons recently built.

They had a large family of children, only three of which are still in Magrath, the others going to other cities and provinces to make their mark in the world.

**COMING !  
S O O N !**

**ALBERTA MADE BLANKETS  
FOR YOU !**

Featuring the "ALBERTA" White Blanket with special eye-appealing border and made of Virgin Wool.

Finest quality assured by expert blending of best imported & domestic wools

● WATCH YOUR PAPER      ● LISTEN TO YOUR RADIO  
for further important announcements on  
ALBERTA MADE BLANKETS

**PRAIRIE WOOLLEN MILLS LIMITED**

Magrath - Alberta



We are marking our eleventh anniversary in the John Deere Farm Implement business, and wish to extend our greetings to all residents and visitors to the Garden City.

The welcome mat is out, oldtimers . . . have a good time!

## EARL HARKER

Implement Dealer

Phone 53

Magrath

## Congratulations to Magrath

On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Magrath, the Garden City of Southern Alberta, the Alberta Wheat Pool offers its congratulations. In that half century the people of Magrath and district have demonstrated a degree of energy, enterprise and perseverance which has made the area one of the most productive in Alberta.

Alberta Pool Elevators appreciate the support received from Magrath district grain growers.

## Alberta Wheat Pool



## How the "Garden City" was Named

Contributed by D. H. Elton, K.C.

You ask me, in a very brief word, to say why I designated: Magrath, "The Garden City", and, for the first time, I venture to reply.

The present century was just one year old when I first saw Magrath. Save for a few houses, a few furrows, a general store, nature had not been greatly disturbed, but held its virgin sod and soil in primeval repose. The "Sea Gulls" had not even spied out the land.

Magrath was then a part of the great North West Territories, and was not, so far as the eye could see, very far removed, either in cultivation or redemption, from the vast area of the original "Prince Rupert's Land". The nearest approach to anything like modern civilization was a "narrow-gauge" railway, terminating at Spring Coulee—the "jumping-off" place for Cardston and the Lee's Creek settlements.

The next four years saw a rapid and unprecedented growth in its agricultural and commercial development—especially the first year. "Archie" Mitchell, government agriculturalist (later the promoter of the nursery that skirts the western boundary of Coaldale), made several visits, delivering lectures, showing pictures, and urging the planting of trees—primarily for windbreaks.

The pioneers of Magrath were first and foremost in accepting his message and applying themselves whole-heartedly and unreservedly to his urge. May I be permitted to name him: "The Tree Prophet and Planter of Southern Alberta", for such he was. If:

### "ONLY GOD CAN MAKE A TREE"

then, "Archie" Mitchell was the forerunner of His craftsmanship, and the pioneer prophet of the gospel of tree planting—at least in this part of His vine-yard. All honor to his name!

As a direct result of "Archie" Mitchell's missionary work, this erst-while "bald spot" was soon festooned beneath a bower of trees, and flowers, and lawns, and gardens, and comfortable homes, and a happy prosperous, progressive people. As I looked upon this marvellous transformation I said: "Surely this is the Garden City."

If the Valley of the Euphrates was the garden of the world in its day, then Magrath has easily won for itself the coveted title of "The Garden City" of our day, and mine (with all due apologies) the Twentieth Century Herodotus to bear record of the same.

And now, Magrath, in your Golden glow  
Recalling fifty short years ago:  
It pleases me greatly to know  
You're still "The Garden City".

**OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO THE**  
*"Garden City"*  
**Of Alberta on Their Fifty Years**  
**of Growth and Achievement**

Today you look backward over fifty years of growth and development made possible by a rugged band of pioneers of '99. Tomorrow you must face the future and a new era in your progress.

In this super scientific age new machines and new processes are constantly being invented. Science is unveiling a wonderfully new world. If humanity is to obtain full advantage of all that is being accomplished, human nature must change and people must have a new outlook on life. The objective should be the welfare of the many and not for the few.

In this broader outlook the co-operative movement points the way. Its objective is a broader diffusion of the wealth produced and not merely the pursuit of profit. For that reason co-operative organizations should be given every encouragement. The Southern Alberta Co-Operative Association should receive generous support of all farmers of your community.

**Southern Alberta Co-operative**  
**Association Limited**

LETHBRIDGE

CARDSTON

COALDALE

TABER

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE**

*"Garden City"*

On Its

**50th ANNIVERSARY**

**CARTER'S GARAGE**



**Ford and Monarch Cars**  
**Ford Trucks and Tractors**



**We Repair All Makes of Cars and Carry a Full Line of**  
**Genuine Ford Parts**

**PHONE 46**

**Bring your Ford or Monarch Home for Service**

My christening seems to have taken effect,  
And I trust you will never have cause to reject  
The title bequeathed with sincere respect—  
Magrath, "The Garden City".

It's yours to have, and yours to hold,  
As years may come, and time unfold,  
May all with pride and joy behold  
Magrath, "The Garden City".

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*Observations Taken From The First Paper Printed In Magrath*

## THE MAGRATH PIONEER

Editor: D. H. Elton

Friday, June 1st, 1906

### KEEP IT BEFORE THE PEOPLE

That Magrath is the Garden City of Southern Alberta and has better facilities for fruit raising, nurseries and orchards than any competitor.

That Magrath has planted more trees this season than any town her size in Southern Alberta or elsewhere in the Canadian North West.

That Magrath has a good water supply, some splendid wells and rich, heavy soil.

### Magrath's First Mayor

FIRST MAYOR — 1907-1910

LEVI HARKER

### COUNCIL—

A. O. WOOLLEY

H. A. HUDSON

S. W. SANDERS

G. A. HACKING

G. J. FORSYTH

J. B. RIRIE



***Congratulations . . .***

To the "Garden City" on Our  
***JUBILEE YEAR***

From

**The Magrath Co-op Ass'n Ltd.**



Dealers for

**I.H.C. Farm Machinery and Trucks  
Frigidaire Appliances  
Cold Storage and Meat Market**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO . . .**

***Town of Magrath***

On Its

**GOLDEN JUBILEE**

From

**CITIZENS LUMBER CO. LTD.**

**43 YEARS IN BUSINESS**

That Magrath has good stores, up-to-date implement houses, first class hotel, barber shop, drug store, restaurant and confectionery, milliner, harness maker, boot and shoe repairer, blacksmiths, a local and long distant system of the Bell Telephone, large roller mill, big elevator, jeweler and watch repairer.

That Magrath is on the railway and twelve miles from the only Sugar Refinery west of Lake Superior. That the freightage on Beets is nominalis nominal while the yield is from fifteen to twenty tons to the acre.

That Magrath has an incorporated Board of Trade, a live Agricultural Society, a vigorous branch of the Alberta Farmers' Association.

That Magrath has excellent coal deposits of the best quality and in unlimited quantity.

It is interesting to note prices quoted by Harker & Company for their June Stocktaking Bargains . . .

Summer Waists

Summer Suits

Ladies' Summer Waists from 60c Ladies' Summer Suits from \$2.45

Dress Goods

We have a few bargains in Dress Goods.

Fine Dress Goods, sold elsewhere at 75c a yd. Our price, per yd. 45c

Organdies

Sold elsewhere at 20c a yard. Our price

12½c

## LETHBRIDGE HOTEL

THE HOUSE OF COMFORT

Lethbridge, Alberta

Congratulations to Magrath on Your 50th Anniversary

*Flowers for Every Occasion*

*Frache's Flower Shop*

Phone 2666

Lethbridge, Alberta

IN THE HEART OF THE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

## OLD FRIENDS

IT WAS on December 26th, 1907, that Canada's first bank opened for business in Magrath . . . just eight years after Charles Ora Card first located the settlement, and but a few months after its incorporation as a town.

In the intervening 42 years we have come a long way together, and we are proud of the part we have played in the development of Magrath.

As one old friend to another, the Bank of Montreal salutes Magrath, and extends sincerest congratulations on the occasion of your 50th anniversary.

**"MY BANK"**  
TO A MILLION CANADIANS



**BANK OF MONTREAL**

Magrath Branch: JAMES F. GRANT, Manager

*CANADA'S FIRST BANK-Working with Canadians in every walk of life Since 1817*

*Anniversary Wishes*

*Continued Prosperity*

MAGRATH'S OLDEST BUSINESS

**Magrath Pharmacy**

Ira C. Fletcher, Nyal A. and Dennis H.

DRUGS

DENNIE'S OWN ICE CREAM

## First Couple Married

The first Magrath couple to be married were A. M. Merkley and Jehzel Gibb Merkley.

They both came to Canada from Utah. Mr. Merkley came in 1891 and worked at Cardston for a number of years. Miss Gibb came with her family some years later.

They were married in the Salt Lake Temple June 22nd, 1900.



## Their First and Present Home



Upon their return to Magrath they moved into their two-roomed house which is still a component part of their present modern home. They will celebrate their golden wedding June 22, 1950.

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Ammon Mercer kept the stopping place for the stage coach and operated the first Post Office.

---

The first store was a tent owned by Rowan Fletcher and his father, Willard T. Fletcher.

## ***Consumers Hardware & Supply***

"THE STORE WITH THE STOCK"  
Exclusive Agencies for Lethbridge and District

"DELTA"

Home and Shop Equipment

"DURO-CHROME"

Mechanics Tools, Wrenches

"SPODE"

Fine China and Porcelain

"CARSON'S"

Fine Quality Luggage

"FINDLAY"

RANGES and HEATERS

"B-H PAINTS"

FINEST QUALITY FINISHES

"COALPORT"

BONE CHINA DINNER WARE

"SPALDING"

SPORTING GOODS

## ***Consumers Hardware & Supply***

**BEST WISHES**

To

**MAGRATH**

On Its

**50th, ANNIVERSARY**

**May She Continue to Grow  
and Prosper**

**J. F. Hamilton & Sons**

**MASSEY-HARRIS DEALERS**

**Makers of High Grade Farm Machinery for Over a Century**



## Magrath's First Marriage

The first wedding in Magrath was a June wedding. The bride was Miss Josephine Shaffer and the groom Mr. Bryan Meldrum. The wedding took place at the home of the bride's parents Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Shaffer June 2, 1902. It was a gala event with all the trimmings. Bishop Levi Harker performed the ceremony.



Miss Shaffer came to Canada with her father's family in 1898. Bryan came in with a company in 1901. They came by rail to Cut Bank, Montana, and drove their cattle overland from there.

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## First Baby Girl



In the field of "Firsts in Magrath" the family of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Shaffer carry off two honors.

Their daughter Josephine being the bride in the first wedding in the town and their daughter Mayda having the honor of being the first girl born in the town.

"Mayda". Mrs. Nephi Christian, is now engaged as a nurse at the Raymond Hospital.

## MAGRATH CAFE

The place for Good Meals,  
Soft Drinks, Tobacco  
and Fruits

We wish Magrath  
and District  
Continued Success

Congratulations  
to the  
Garden City  
on its

50th Anniversary

**Ireta's Style  
Shop**

"The Friendly Store"

Box 127

Phone 20

## Congratulations!

CITIZENS  
of  
MAGRATH  
On This Your  
50th BIRTHDAY

May we have the pleasure of  
serving you again . . . as during  
the past.

Hardware for Farm,  
Home and Industry



## ... First Baby Boy ...

### MAGRATH MERRILL

Born in February of 1900 he was the first baby boy born in Magrath. He was the third child and eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Merrill.

He is today a prosperous farmer residing at the Town of Hillspring in the United Irrigation District.

Granted a gift of 10-acre city block.



## Ehlerts Radio Shop

Congratulations to Magrath

On Its 50th Anniversary

Radios, Electrical and Sporting Equipment

## MAGRATH MOTORS

ROSS WHITEHEAD, Prop.

GAS and OIL PRODUCTS

Repairs and Service to all makes of Cars, Trucks  
and Tractors

Phone 125

Magrath, Alta.

It has been our privilege in the past years to supply Magrath and District, through Garages and Retailers, Automotive Supplies and Parts.

In this capacity we truly hope that we have in some way contributed to the growth and development of Magrath.

## **H. R. Carson Limited**

WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTORS

316 - 7th St. South

Lethbridge

OPPORTUNITIES TODAY  
ARE BETTER THAN EVER

### **HENDERSON SECRETARIAL SCHOOL LIMITED**

M3672 509 - 8th Ave. W. M3673  
CALGARY, ALBERTA



Enrol at any time of the year. Free placement service.

*We Extend Our Congratulations . . .*

To the Garden City  
On Its 50th Anniversary

## **S. S. KRESGE Co. Ltd.**

LETHBRIDGE - ALBERTA

## Taylor Stake Organized at Magrath, 1903

By M. Elmer Ririe

The settlement of this north country by the Latter Day Saints began in which is now known as Cardston on June 3rd, 1887, when a company of immigrants under the leadership of Charles Ora Card arrived there from Utah. Within two years the populations had grown to nearly two hundred souls. It was difficult to carry on all the activities of a ward and a stake organization with so few people, yet with all working together and assuming a double responsibility and being encouraged by the general authorities of the church they got along nicely.

As early as October, 1888, the first conference of the Alberta Stake was held. The meeting house was small, yet they had a time of rejoicing together. Elder Francis M. Lyman, president of the Council of the Twelve Apostles and Elder John W. Taylor, a member of the same council, attended the conference and encouragement and council to the leaders and to the little pioneer band. The presidency of the stake at this time was Charles Ora Card, President, with Thomas Duce as 1st Councillor, and Orson A. Woolley as 2nd Councillor. Apostle John W. Taylor was living in Cardston at the time and did much to encourage the new settlers and promised the people that they would be able to sustain themselves and that this country would yet become a bread basket for the world.

On Monday-morning following this conference, President Card took a few passengers in his carriage and drove around the townsite and stopped on a hill overlooking Lee's Creek. The passengers got out of the carriage and President Francis M. Lyman, the senior apostle, said: "We have been invited to come on this morning trip to participate in the sacred service of dedicating this land as a habitation for the saints." He then moved forward until impressed to stop. He took his place facing east; on his right was Apostle John W. Taylor and wife; on his left President Card and wife. Facing him was Bishop John A. Wolf and wife, making a circle. Elder Taylor was called upon to offer the dedicatory prayer. Everything seemed hushed as those present listened to the inspirational words of the prayer. Then there came a pause: "I now speak by the power of prophecy and say that upon this very spot shall be erected a temple to the name of Israel's God and people shall come from far and near to praise His Holy Name." When the time came to build a temple in this land, four pictures for its location were presented to President Joseph F. Smith, who said: "I feel strongly impressed that this is the one"; it being the spot dedicated by Elder John W. Taylor 25 years before.

On September 8th, 1902, Stake Priesthood meeting was held in the school house at Magrath. Apostle John W. Taylor conducted the meeting and transacted important business. President Charles Oro

Card was released as president of the Alberta Stake and Heber S. Allen was sustained in his stead. President Allen chose Theodore Brandley as his 1st Councillor and Edward J. Wood as his 2nd Councillor. This organization continued until August 31, 1903, when stake conference was held at Magrath. It was attended by President Joseph F. Smith and Anthony H. Lund of the First Presidency of the church, and Elders Reed Smoot, Mathias F. Cowley and John W. Taylor of the Council of the Twelve Apostles. After the morning meeting at which all the general authorities present had made brief remarks, a special priesthood meeting was called for 12:30 noon at which President Smith suggested that because the stake was very large and scattered, that it be divided. After further speeches and a brief discussion, the suggestion was approved. The names of the new presidencies was to be announced at the afternoon session of conference. In the afternoon session President Smith proposed that Edward J. Wood would be the president of the Alberta Stake with Elder Thomas Duce 1st Councillor, other officers to be selected later at Cardston. The new stake was to be called the Taylor Stake (in honor of John W. Taylor) and the dividing line was to be the range line running north and south between Magrath and Spring Coulee. Heber S. Allen was sustained as the president of this new Taylor Stake with Theodore Brandley as 1st Councillor and J. William Knight as 2nd Councillor. President Allen gave long and faithful service, being replaced after 34 years by Elder T. George Wood with Heber F. Allen and Melvin T. King as councillors. President Edward J. Wood held his position for 39 years, being replaced by Willard G. Smith.

The first Ward Conference of Magrath was held January 21st, 1900. Meetings had been held however in different homes since May 28th, 1899. The first meeting was held in the home of Fred Turner on said date. Bishop Levi Harker was ordained June, 1899, at Cardston, and came occasionally to Magrath for services until he built his home and moved his family from Cardston on December 10th, 1899. At the ward conference held on the above date the following officers were sustained: Bishop of Magrath Ward, Levi Harker; Ammon Mercer, 1st Councillor and Eli Bennett 2nd; Charles Heber Dudley, clerk; George Naylor, assistant clerk. Relief Society: Mariah E. Bennett, president; Sarah Gibb, 1st, and Alice Rich, 2nd, councillors; Emma Bennett, secretary; Eleanor Spencer, assistant secretary; Mary Fletcher, treasurer. Y.M.M.I.A.: President Z. W. Jacobs; Andrew Watson, 1st, and Frederick Haycock, 2nd councillor; Golden Woolley, secretary; Willard G. Richards, chorister; John Spencer, librarian; choir leader, John J. Gibb; organist, Margaret Naylor. Primary Association: Isabell Merrill, president; Sarah E. Evans, 1st, Lettie Crichfield, 2nd councillors; Katie Fletcher, secretary. Sunday School: John B. Merrill, Superintendent; James B. Ririe, 1st, James Meldrum, 2nd assistant; Rowan W. Fletcher, secretary; Norma Bennett, assistant secretary; Andrew Watson, librarian; Charles Woolley, treasurer. Y.L.M.I.A.: Margaret Naylor, president; Alice Woolley, 1st, Ida Haycock, 2nd councillor; Sarah Gibb, secretary; Lourie Ririe, Journal agent.

Foregoing is a complete list of the organization of the Magrath Ward January 21st, 1900.

Thus from 1899 more and more people found a home in this goodly land until by 1922 Magrath had enough people to make two wards. The First Ward still presided over by Bishop Levi Harker with Wm. Hindley and M. Elmer Ririe as councillors. In May, 1924, M. Elmer Ririe was taken into the Stake High Council and George A. Gurney sustained in his stead in the bishopric. On August 9th, 1931, Bishop Harker was released after 32 years of faithful service. The new bishopric was M. Elmer Ririe, Bishop, David H. Keeler, 1st, and A. Glen Miller, 2nd councillors; James McConnel Watson, clerk. After Elder Miller moved to Utah to attend school Elder Smith Ackroyd was sustained and this organization continued until July, 1947, when this bishopric was released and the present bishopric was sustained: Horace Ririe, Bishop; Rulon B. Harker, 1st, and J. A. Hamilton, 2nd councillor; Blaine Harker, ward clerk.

The First Bishopric of the Magrath Second Ward was James Alfred Ririe, who had Ellis Heninger and Ralph Winterton councillors, John T. Steele clerk. Ralph Winterton moved to Utah and was replaced by Elder Earl B. Harker. Succeeding bishoprics were Ellis S. Heninger, bishop; A. R. Briggs and Ira C. Fletcher, councillors; Ira C. Fletcher, Bishop; Earl B. Harker and G. G. Woolley, councillors; C. C. Spencer, Bishop, with Howard Fletcher and B. W. Dow, councillors. When Howard Fletcher moved to Lethbridge he was replaced by George T. Dudley, the present bishopric.

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## Lord Minto's Banquet

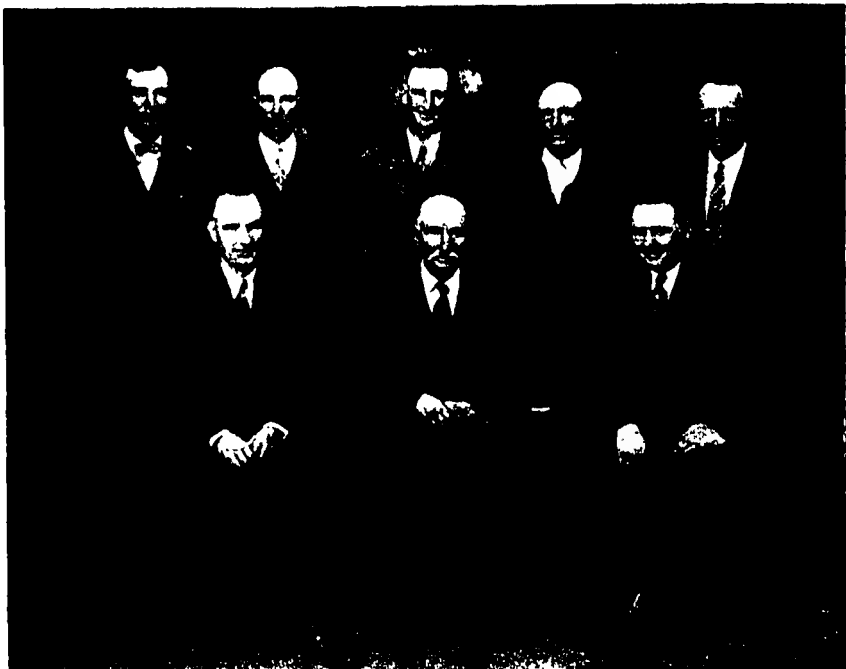
The first public banquet held in Magrath was on the occasion of the visit of Lord Minto, the Governor General of Canada, to our little town.

It had been arranged that the Governor General on his return from a trip to the Yukon, should meet the leaders of the Latter Day Saint Church and the two parties would together inspect the irrigation project recently undertaken.

The date was set for September 12th, 1900. President Joseph F. Smith and Apostle George Q. Cannon and daughter representing the church, were present. The banquet was prepared, but a severe storm arose and after waiting an hour or so past the appointed time, and having received no word from the Governor General's party, the banquet proceeded, but hardly had it been completed when the undaunted party arrived, Governor, his wife and two daughters. Fortunately ample preparations had been made and the guests were royally entertained while their horses rested and were prepared for the return trip through one of our Canadian blizzards.

## J.B.Ririe Pioneer Stockman

By J. A. Ririe



He left home when a boy. Got a job herding sheep at \$10.00 a month from E. P. Ellison, late president of the Ellison Milling Co. It was while working for Mr. Ellison that he met and married Elizabeth Ann Morgan. (12 children)

In 1899 he shipped two carloads of Rambouillet ewes to Alberta. For 50 years he sold rams. Buyers asked him to do the picking, trusting to his judgment and honesty.

In 1902 he purchased in Montana 40,000 sheep for the Knight Sugar Co. (Jesse Knight)

In the early days agriculture fairs were the meeting place for farmers and ranchers. He exhibited Shorthorn and Jersey cattle, Shire horses and Rambouillet sheep, and all sorts of feathered animals from Bantams to Peacocks.

In the U.S. he was a Democrat, in Canada a Conservative.

He came to Alberta in 1898, made a down payment on 10,000 acres of land north of Magrath (the Lehi Field), a tract three miles north and south and lying between the Pot Hole and St. Mary's River. The first payment took most of his cash. He was to make the down





payment and two stockmen at Ogden, Utah, were to pay the balance. For some reason they declined to go through with the deal, so Mr. Ririe lost his money and his friends.

### IRRIGATION REPENTANCE

J. B. Ririe was Scotch back to the 14th century. He seldom changed his mind, but once he did. He owned 90 shares of water on the west side of the Pot Hole, east of town. He wanted 20 shares transferred to the east side. Mr. Naismith, chairman of the A.R. and I. canal said no. So Mr. Ririe refused to pay his water rates. This was O.K. with the C.P.R. Irrigation wasn't a paying proposition anyway. The water rates were not paid so his shares were cancelled.

Then came dry years and the only water to reach the Ririe hay land was waste water, he being on the end of the ditch. Later he had a change of heart and decided to pay up the arrears and get the water back, but Mr. Naismith said no. No water, no hay, no beets. A Mr. Harvey, president of the Standard Trust Co., had much land for sale, (this was the firm that put the Colemans, Fred Bradshaw, Azer Briggs, and others into bankruptcy). (\$18.00 pasture land dropped to \$3.00.) Harvey and Naismith were friends. Mr. Ririe made certain payments on land on terms if Harvey would get his water rights returned. This Harvey did. So the Ririe farm has paid up its water rentals promptly ever since. He loved to irrigate. He rode a horse from dawn to dusk, three dogs following closely at the horse's heels. He carried a rifle (a good shot). If he lost a horse or lamb he never stopped riding until he found it. No fences were between Magrath

and Havre, Montana. He found a lost four-year-old mare (after riding all summer) 70 miles east of Milk River town.

He never believed in doctors. In later life he suffered intestinal pains (gas). Two of his brothers died of cancer so he said he knew what ailed him. One day the pain was terrific. He finally consented to allow Dr. Palmer (about 1924) to visit him. A five block walk in a foot of snow. The Doctor checked him over. He had no cancer. Told him his teeth were slipping and he was not masticating his food (bolting it). Always in a hurry.

He was in the Superintendency of the first Sunday School in Magrath, a member of the Magrath School Board, president and director of Magrath Agricultural Society, Mayor, president and vice-president of the Magrath Trading Co. Ltd., a member of the first Board of Trade, vice-president of Magrath Credit Society, representing the Government from its inception in 1922 until his death.

He never missed church, but he always took his religion home with him. Never worked on Sundays. He loved to preach, a weakness of the Ririe clan. Very stern with his sons, but mellowed later. The two younger sons got the benefit of this.

At 75 he decided to sell two sections of land, pay his debts, taxes, etc., and live happily ever after. No money had changed hands at the time of his death but the papers were signed. The deal had to go through. There was little in cash left after commissions, lawyers, real estate men, succession duties, etc., were paid. One cannot realize the many grasping individuals who appear "to share the wealth." He never spent a dollar for life, hail or fire insurance.

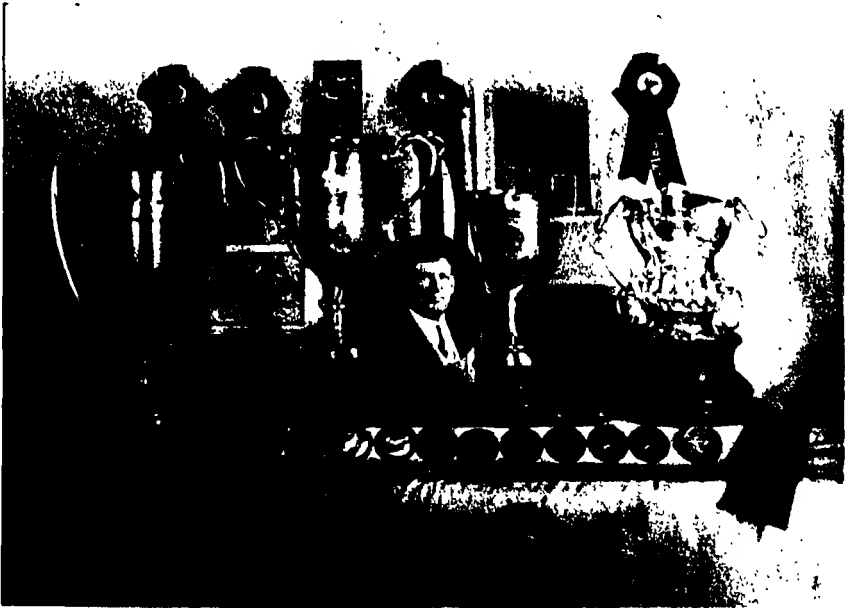
At meetings (he attended many) he was never a yes man. Seldom if ever seconded a motion. He either made it or voted (yes or no).

In the '30's his taxes amounted \$1,500.00 yearly. With 3c wool and 25c wheat it couldn't be done. The strain was too much. So a pioneer died having served his generation.

**C**ONGRATULATIONS on your Golden Jubilee, a half century of progress and a tribute to the pioneers whose wisdom and courage have made Magrath "The Garden City", one of the foremost towns of Southern Alberta. May you continue to prosper and progress in the future.

Capitol & Roxy Theatres

## R. W. Bradshaw Pioneer Rancher



R. W. Bradshaw with his wife and family cut, as it were, many of the pioneer trails and built many of the pioneer bridges of Southern Alberta. After his first visit to this country in 1899 he returned to his home in Lehi, Utah, so thrilled with the possibilities here that there was a regular exodus from Lehi to Magrath. It was then that the Hindleys, the Cooks, the Jabocs, Fowlers, Bones, Sabeys, Jensens and other foundation pioneer families came in and gave their contributions to the building of the country. Mr. Bradshaw was the founder of the Rosedale Ranch at the present site of the Pot Hole Coulee Dam, which soon became famous for its Percheron and French Coach horses. With such animals as "Pink", one of the best Percheron stallions on the continent, and many other top ranking sires and mares, he soon built a band of over 100 head of registered horses from which Southern Alberta became stocked with good horses.

Mr. Bradshaw believed in good homes, good living, good stock and good farming. He had faith and confidence in this country and in times of discouragement his motto for himself and advice to others was "Stay with Alberta and Alberta will pull you through."

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The first Hotel was operated by Mr. Kimball.

A. O. Woolly was first station agent at the old A. R. & I.

The first automobile in town was owned by Fred Turner.

# Official Programme

## SUNDAY, JULY 24th

Regular Sunday morning and Sunday evening services will be held in all Churches in Magrath with suitable attention being given to commemorate the occasion of the Jubilee.

2 p.m. The special Sunday Program of the Jubilee will be held at the Assembly Hall. President George Albert Smith, of the L.D.S. Church, will be in attendance.

A Public Address system will accommodate over-flow crowds in the Magrath First Ward Church and on the grounds of the Assembly Hall.

## MONDAY, JULY 25th

10.30 a.m. Mammoth Parade (see Map) ending at the Grand Stand for "Crowning of the Jubilee Queen" by Hon. N. E. Tanner.

2.00 p.m. Sports Program at Park.

2.00 p.m. ½-MILE HORSE RACE, OPEN—Purse \$50.00.  
Divided \$25.00, \$15.00, \$10.00

2. FOOT RACING—ALL AGES. Purse \$30.00.

3. PONY RACE. Purse \$20.00.

3. PULLING OUT OF RING BY HORN OF SADDLE. Purse \$15.

5. BINGHAM TROPHY RACE. Purse \$40.00.  
Divided \$20.00, \$12.00, \$8.00

6. PULLING MATCH (Team). Purse \$25.00, divided \$15, \$10.  
Interested parties notify J. C. Harker by 15th July.

7. ROMAN RACE. Purse \$45.00 divided \$20, \$15 and \$10.

8. STAKE RACE, FIGURE EIGHT. Purse \$20.00.  
Divided \$10.00, \$6.00, \$4.00

9. BICYCLE RACE, OPEN. Once around track. Purse \$10.00.  
Divided \$5.00, \$3.00, \$2.00

10. ¾-MILE BUSINESS DERBY. Purse \$50, divided \$25, \$15, \$10

11. FARMER'S WAGON RACE. Once around track. Purse \$25.00  
Divided \$15.00, \$10.00

12. OPEN RELAY, 3 HORSES. 16 years or over must ride.  
Purse \$30.00, divided \$15, \$10, \$5.

13. INDIAN CHUCK WAGON RACE. Purse \$30.00.  
Divided \$15, \$10, \$5

BASEBALL GAME.

First day prize money \$415.00.

**TUESDAY, JULY 26th**

- 9.00 a.m. Motor Cade leaves Lethbridge.
- 11.00 a.m. Naming Ceremony at Pot Hole (Jensen) Reservoir and Dam.  
Master of Ceremonies, J. H. Bridge.  
Selections by the Band.  
Naming of Reservoir and Dam by Hon. David Ure, Min-  
of Agriculture.  
Official release of water from reservoir, by Official of the  
New West Construction Co.  
Remarks, Christian Jensen (in whose honor the Dam and  
and Reservoir is named).  
Bands in attendance.
- 12.00 Noon Old Timer's Banquet at Assembly Hall.  
Barbecue at Sports Grounds.
- 1.30 p.m. Unveiling Ceremony of Irrigation Monument, Magrath  
Main Street.  
Master of Ceremonies, Mayor E. P. Tanner.  
O Canada  
Introductory Remarks, Mayor E. P. Tanner.  
Remarks, Mr. W. A. Hamilton.  
Introduction of main speaker, Mr. Ben Russell.  
Unveiling—Government Official.  
Disposal of Bonds, Mr. P. B. Taylor, Chairman, Magrath  
Irrigation Board.  
Presentation to Mrs. Afton Anderson by official of C.P.R.  
(First lady passenger on the railroad running through  
Magrath).  
Bands in attendance.
- 2.00 p.m. Sports Program and Light Horse Show.
- 2.00 p.m. ½-MILE OPEN. Purse \$50.00, divided 50, 30 and 20%.
2. HORSE SHOW (High Jumping with Horse). Purse \$30.00.
3. SLOW RACE. Purse \$10.00 divided \$5.00, \$3.00 and \$2.00.
4. TRICK HORSE. Purse \$50.00 (division to be made prior to race)
5. HORSE RACE. Second day money \$215.00.

**MAGRATH LIGHT HORSE SHOW**

## Magrath Light Horse Show

JULY 26TH, 1949

The following Classes will be shown with First, Second and Third

Ribbons Awarded:

### REGISTERED (Any Breed)

Stallion 3 years or over

Brood Mare and Foal

Stallion, Filly or Gelding, 2 years or over

Stallion, Filly or Gelding, 1 year or over

Dry Mare or Gelding, 3 years or over

Foal

### GRADE HORSES

Stallion 3 years or over

Brood Mare and Foal

Dry Mare or Gelding, 3 years or over

Stallion, Filly or Gelding, 2 years or over

Stallion, Filly or Gelding, 1 year or over

### GENTLEMAN'S SADDLE HORSE

12.2 hands or over

### LADY'S SADDLE HORSE

12.2 hands or over

### SADDLE PONY

14.2 hands or under

Ridden by boy or girl under 16 years.

**SHETLAND PONY** ridden by boy or girl 12 years or under.

(All Saddle Horses and Ponys to be shown under saddle).

**CHAMPION HORSE**, any age, to be shown in halter.

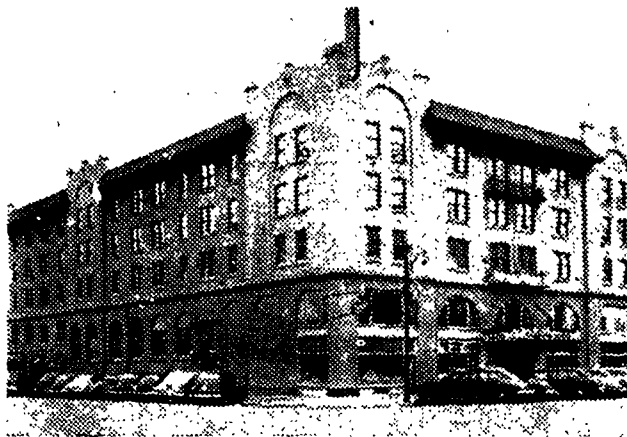
Note.—Any one horse cannot compete in more than one class except for Championship.

MAGRATH'S FIRST BAND



Back Row—Rowan Fletcher, A. Mercer, Chas. Harker  
Second Row—Levi Harker, Claire Bennett, Jessie Smith, Andrew Rasmussen,  
Riley Weaver, Roy Jensen, Alvin Hansen, Trueman Bone, Ralph Winterton,  
Newel Rich, Leader George Birch seated.

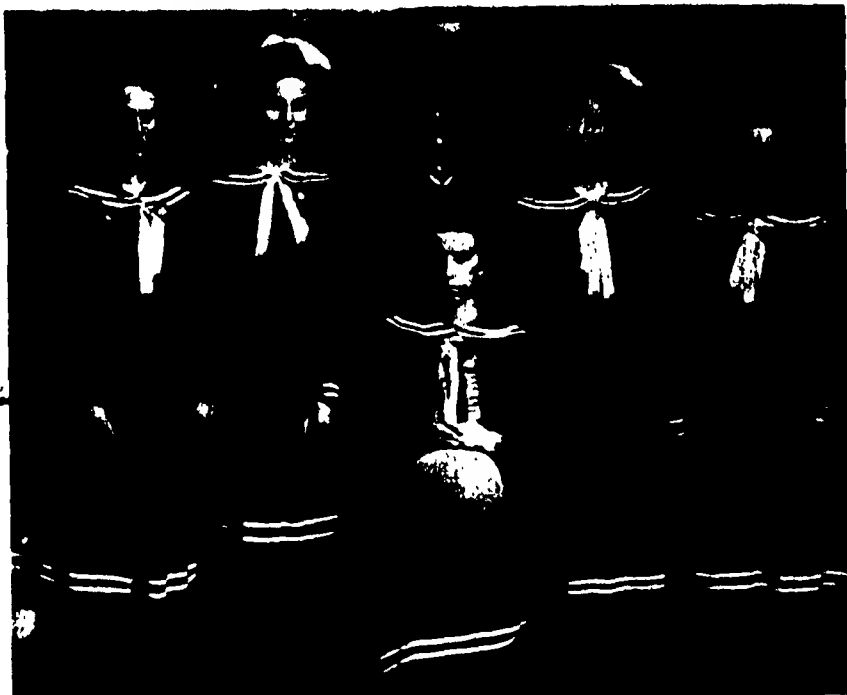
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Southern Alberta's Leading Hotel

CONGRATULATES MAGRATH ON ITS  
GOLDEN JUBILEE

# POT HOLE AGAINST THE WORLD



LADIES' BASKETBALL TEAM—MAGRATH, 1904

Left to right—Mary Hall, Sara Tracy, Chas Edwards, Coach, Pheobe Bingham, Irene Coleman—Seated Ethel Evans.

## The Flood of 1902

Aside from the rigors of frontier life, the early pioneers had to contend with the uncertainties of nature and without the many conveniences we have today. The year 1902 had its share of natural phenomena, chief of which was the flood. The waters of the Pot Hole Coulee (now commonly called "The Creek") rose to within two feet of the top of its banks near Peter Dow's home. Bishop Harker's home was threatened and the old Tithing Office was completely flooded.

People lost pigs and chickens with their pens and coops. They all floated "down the river". They say it was quite a sight to see Billy Jacobs with his short legs running along the banks trying to rescue a rooster as it went on its way with the swirling flood waters.



# The Story of Irrigation

## MAGRATH THE BIRTHPLACE OF IRRIGATION



It is true that many attempts at irrigation had been made in Alberta prior to the coming of the Mormons to this district. It is also true that some land had been temporarily irrigated. But it is equally true that the opening of the A.R. and I. Canal system here in Southern Alberta marked the be-

ginning of irrigation on a large scale in Western Canada. The story of its beginning takes us back to the story of the building of the C.P. Railway; to the discovery of the rich coal deposits at Lethbridge, and to the endeavour of the men concerned to bring settlers to this western land.

In this story the names of "Galt", for whom the coal mines of Lethbridge are named; "J. J. Head" representing British finance; "Clifford Sifton", Minister of Interior in the Canadian Cabinet; "C. A. Magrath", the local representative in the North West Council of Canada; and "Charles Ora Card", that great "Mormon pioneer" and promoter of irrigation, are the names of men around whom the current of the drama flows, for it was only through a combination of their efforts and abilities that this development was made possible at that time.

Mr. J. J. Head, sent out by the English shareholders to report on the matter, states, in a document preserved in the Lethbridge Library, the reasons for selecting Mormons to take over the canal contracts.

These reasons include:

1. They already have representatives in the country and know the problems.
2. They have had fifty years irrigating experience.
3. They are organized under far-seeing leaders and will complete what they undertake to do.
4. The Canadian Government regards them favorably.

Much of the credit must be given to C. Ora Card, leader in Cardston, who had preached irrigation to the Galts and to Mr. Magrath for years. He was placed in charge of the church part of the contract and ploughed the first furrow on the canal in September, 1898. In the same month he chose the sites of the new towns of Magrath and Stirling. He gave up this position in early 1899 to M. D. Hammond.

In April, 1899, the settlers began to swarm in, by rail and covered wagon, trailing in their stock with them. A few built houses or started business places to supply the needs of the settlers, but for the most part the men were engaged in work along the 90 miles of canal from the head gates at Kimball to Lethbridge and beyond to "gouge" the big brown trench that was to carry the water from the St. Mary River out onto the crop land.

By November, 1899, the headgates at Magrath were completed and also the first section of the canal below these gates which had been contracted by Rasmus Rasmussen, and Mr. Clifford Sifton, Dominion Minister of the Interior, was invited to formally open the new system. On the 14th day of that November, 1899, a cavalcade came from Lethbridge to Magrath to perform the ceremony. W. A. Hamilton is the only living member of that cavalcade.

It is in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of that historic occasion, "The official birthday of Irrigation in Western Canada", that Hon. James A. MacKinnon, Minister of Mines and Resources, will unveil the monument at Magrath July 25th, 1949.



The first waters were turned into the new system in the fall of 1900 and it has been in constant service ever since. In wet years the demand for water has been light, but with the coming of dryer periods the value of irrigation was amply demonstrated and men sought for ways and means for increasing the supply of water and extending the area to be benefitted. Storage reservoirs were constructed at Chin Lake and other points.

As the years went by the system passed through the hands of various owners and operators. The A.R. & I. sold to the C.P.R. which in turn later disposed of sections of the system. Thus when the farmers and land owners around Magrath purchased the section in that

district the Magrath Irrigation District came into existence. The pathway of this organization and the land owners concerned has not been entirely strewn with roses, but with the leadership of such men as Christian Jensen, J. W. Evans, E. S. Bennion and others, and the undying labor and support of the farmers, the storms of depression and low prices have been weathered and the Board was happy to announce at the 1949 annual meeting that all bonds and obligations have been met and discharged, and that every shareholder (land owner) had paid his taxes in full. A very healthy condition. The bonds will be disposed of at the unveiling of the monument.

As noted in the Church Historian's sketch, the St. Mary River rises in the United States of America, which is also the case for the Milk River, the Belly River and, to some extent, the headwaters of the Waterton River. Naturally there was considerable desire on the part of the American farmers to use these waters in that country and had they been the only international waters, there is little doubt that we would lack irrigation water. But streams like the Columbia River rise in Canada and so an International Joint Water Commission was set up to divide these streams.

In 1914 the U.S. Government built a canal to use water from the Belly River and created a storage area for the St. Mary's runoff waters. It was understood that Canada would provide storage for her share of the runoff but the years passed and nothing came of it. The U.S. Government generously released water to help out in some particularly dry years but made it clear that such could not go on indefinitely.

Shortly after the Great War surveying was done that included the present St. Mary and Milk River Development Project, but during the depression everything appeared to stagnate, but irrigation-minded enthusiasts pushed the project day in and day out, year after year until when the need for food arose the project was finally O.K'd.

In 1945 work began on the first unit, a dam on east Pothole Coulee south of Magrath, as this could be used to store 14,000 acre feet of water for the years while the big dam on the St. Mary was being completed. The Pot Hole dam was completed in 1948 and will release its first water in 1949.

The completed project will tuck the original system into a small corner, for when it is finally finished it will span the southern end of the province, stretching from Waterton Lakes on the west, to Medicine Hat on the east, and will eventually carry on into Saskatchewan. A dam across the Waterton River will make the Waterton Lakes a great reservoir. A second dam further down the river will divert the water into a canal that will carry it across the Belly River and the Blood Indian Reservation into the large St. Mary River Dam at Spring Coulee (now under construction). This dam, the largest earth dam in Canada, rises 186 feet above the bed of the stream.

Another canal will conduct the water from this dam to the East Pothole (Jensen) Reservoir, while still another canal will take it from



this reservoir on through a series of canals, storage reservoirs, and diversion ditches to the ultimate consumer, the farmer, and as mentioned above, it will be distributed over a large tract of land reaching as far east as the vicinity of Medicine Hat. In the Magrath district alone some 18,000 additional acres of land will be brought under irrigation. In all the project will water 350,000 acres of land and will transform the heretofore dry Southeastern Alberta into one of the finest and most productive irrigation districts on the whole continent.

With this, our jubilee year, we mark the conclusion of the first half century of irrigation and we launch into a new era of progress, confident that we will see continued growth and even greater prosperity.

*Congratulations*

To the Garden City

On Its 50th Anniversary

**Metropolitan Stores**

Lethbridge - Alberta

## Pioneer Irrigation Farmer



It is fitting at this time to pay tribute to the man who the M.I.D. considered worthy, because of his contribution to irrigation, to have the new Dam and Reservoir south of town named in his honor; that man is Christian Jensen.

The spirit of adventure and the knowledge of opportunities that a new country afford impelled Mr. Jensen to immigrate to Canada, settling in Magrath in 1903. In this district he and his brothers acquired large ranch holdings as well as entering into the mercantile business. His interest in sheep and the marketing of wool drew him into wool and sheep co-operatives. He was president of the Southern Alberta Sheep Breeders Association for 25 years, and during these same years he was first elected as one of the Directors of the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers, and later made president of that organization, which position he held for 11 years.



Crop on Jensen Bros. Farm, 1908 — 1000 Acres, 54 Bushels per Acre.

As the western frontier pushed back more virgin soil was turned by the plow, resulting in increased wheat production. So that farmers might fully reap the benefit of their labor, more effective marketing facilities were necessary, and the Alberta Wheat Pool was born with Mr. Jensen one of the fathers. He was a member of the committee

that negotiated a loan of \$700,000 which formed a nucleus for finance. This company has assets today amounting to \$15,000,000.

As a result of the lean years of 1920-21, to achieve greater production as well as provide labor for the growing population the M.I.D. came into being. The office of president of this organization Mr. Jensen held for a period of 20 years. During this time the indebtedness of \$300,000 was completely wiped out.

We congratulate Mr. Jensen and the board that they can celebrate Magrath's Golden Jubilee free of debt.

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#### AN EARLY BASKETBALL TEAM



Standing—DeVoe Wolf, Mr. Scott  
Front Row—Ammon Mercer, John H. Bridge, Lymon Rasmussen

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A. R. Bennett won "Alberta Pacific Grain Company Cup" two years with Red Fife wheat.

# THE FIRST MEETING HOUSE



This was the first meeting house built in Magrath. It was completed and dedicated in the year 1901, and stood where the present Assembly Hall now stands. After about ten years of service it was the prey of fire caused trying to manipulate an oil stove.

## AN EARLY BASEBALL TEAM



Back Row—Ammon Mercer, Rowan Fletcher, Coach and Manager, Nephi Harker  
 Second Row— Clyde Woolley, John Barton, Thos. Parkinson, Culbert Howes  
 Front Row— Ray Bone, Geo. Tomlinson, Chas Edwards



## Irrigation Beginnings

By W. A. HAMILTON

Irrigation came the hard way in South Alberta. It took fifteen years for the Northwest Coal and Navigation Co., with its five re-organizations to discover that small markets for coal, light traffic for their railroads, and negligible land sales, even as low as \$1.00 per acre, could only bring disaster. Irrigation was the only hope.

Hence it was that September 14th, 1899, was set as the date for the formal opening of their project. A year before an agreement had been signed by the leaders of the Mormon Church to build the canal, their people to be paid for their labor, half in cash, half in land at \$3.00 per acre. Now the canal had been built from the intake on the St. Marys, near Cardston, to Magrath where a small dam had been built to divert the water from the Pot.Hole Coulee to a canal leading north and east to Lethbridge and Stirling.

The Hon. Clifford Sifton, Minister of the Interior, was to officiate and an invitation to attend was given Lethbridge citizens. Beside, our admiration for Mr. Galt and Mr. Magrath, whose energy and ability had brought the scheme to success, Lethbridge had a further interest, as the Council had promised a substantial grant to the Company on the delivery of water to the town limits.

So it was that on that grey November morning some twenty or thirty people clambered into "Curly" Whitney's battered democrats and took the slow trail to Magrath. Keep in mind, as the trail wound around Six Mile Coulee, over the prairie to the Pot Hole, marked by the ashes of the many camp fires made by the Mormon farmers on their trips to and from Lethbridge, then across its stoney bottom, up the long hill to the bench above, the only house to be seen was George Houck's white cottage a mile or two west, close to the right bank of the St. Mary's. An hour or so later as we bumped over the buffalo trails of this most beautiful piece of prairie, the fresh board shacks of Magrath came in sight.

It was noon when we arrived and dinner was ready, and we were soon seated around the long table in the construction tent. There were no champagne, no long speeches, and no cheers—Mr. Magrath introduced Clifford Sifton, then one of the youngest members of Sir Wilfred Laurier's first cabinet, and whom Mr. Magrath has since called "The father of irrigation" because of the support he had given the Company—Mr. Sifton's speech was brief as became a native westerner. He paid tribute to Mr. Elliott Galt and Mr. Magrath, and congratulated them upon the success of the work so far, a success that assured the speedy completion of the system. This sun-baked prairie needed only water to make it fertile. With settlers experienced in irrigation, the farms would yield crops that would give a good living to the farm



families and provide winter fodder for sheep and cattle of the range. Though he hoped for the speedy settlement of the project, I am sure he never dreamed that fifty years later the happy and prosperous people of Magrath would erect a monument to commemorate the occasion.

As Vincent Massey says in his recent book, "We build fine bridges and dams in Canada, and we have many more to construct, but we do well to understand the deeper meaning of those undertakings and to see them in the wider context of life."

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## The May Snow Storm


As Recounted by "Lije" Bourne

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In all the annals of the history of Southern Alberta, there seems to be nothing in the way of snowstorms to compare with the "never-to-be-forgotten" May storm of 1903. About two o'clock Saturday afternoon, May 16 of that year, a steady rain set in. By nine o'clock that night it was snowing hard. This was the beginning. "Lije" Bourne, "Ike" Sabey and "Joe" Jensen with "By" Brown as foreman, had just completed a new four-wire fence on the "Dave Smith" Ranch northwest of town. "Lije" told the men that if it snowed like that all night the cattle would drift and take the new fence with them before morning, but "By" assured them that his new fence would hold all the cattle in the country till they starved to death. It did snow all night; the cattle drifted; they hit the fence and took it with them. One lone heifer was left dead in a corner.

It kept on snowing and blowing and continued for four days and four nights. Such a storm was never seen in this country before nor since. "Lije" says: "That storm is so strongly impressed on my mind that I can see it as plain today as if it had happened yesterday."

On Thursday, the fifth morning, the storm clouds broke, the sun came out, and then started the search for the cattle, horses and sheep. It really sounds fantastic to listen to the stories of the next few days. Peter Clark, Jack Bourne and Ab. Chipman started from town that Thursday morning to look for their stock. They had good horses and each took turns breaking trail, but it took them all day long to get to a straw stack on Emil Ehlert's farm about three miles south of town and back again. Ab. Shelton and John Lamb took a good long day to get to town and back in a bob sled from the old Shelton Ranch. And every other rancher had the same experience. However, with a warm sun the snow was soon gone, and then came the heartbreaking search for the cattle. It was a sickening sight everywhere, in fence corners that wouldn't give way, in coulees, by river banks, every way one turned were to be found piles of dead cattle and horses as they had huddled together in the driving storm. Rail Road Coulee seemed



to be the worst death trap of them all, and it certainly took its toll. The stock that escaped these death traps drifted almost unbelievable distances. Hundreds were found weeks afterwards far down into Montana. Ralph Winterton found some of his as far as the Marias River.

Stock that had been in the country over the previous winter and had become climatized fared pretty well except for the death traps, but the loss on cattle just shipped in was terrific. Dave Smith came in that April with 430 head of cattle. After the storm he put 275 head back into the field. Jensen Bros. had just unloaded their cattle. They lost 40 per cent. One man from Manitoba unloaded 125 head at Stirling the day the storm hit. He lost every single one. Bob Proctor and Chipman were right in the middle of lambing, with a herd of 4,000 sheep and no lambing sheds. Their loss was terrific.

But the black cloud had its silver lining, for the weather man sent a summer of excellent growing weather and the crops were marvellous. They stood chest-high and as level as a floor, at least a slight compensation for the May disaster.

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## *Del Bonita - Meaning Beautiful Valley*

The Del Bonita country was formerly part of the McIntyre Ranch holdings, under lease from the government. This land provided grazing for thousands of head of cattle.

In the year 1912 this (Lease) country was thrown open to homesteading and an epoch of development ensued. Here again all the trails of virtual pioneer life had to be met. Such men as Mr. Stagg, Oscar Weiss, E. Dalton, J. Foggin, W. Newton, D. Crookston, S. Henry, R. Swallow, dared the rigors of frontier life to subdue this land and make of it a fruitful and productive district which now presents to one's view extensive farms yielding prodigious crops of the world's best wheat with beautiful and modern farm homes taking the place of the homesteaders' cabin.

Hard work and foresight on their part and co-operation with the Town of Magrath and its Mayor Tanner, has brought to them a good gravel road linking Southern Alberta with the Roosevelt Highway south of the border, and a Customs Office at the Del Bonita townsite. This is the natural and shortest route from Lethbridge and Southern Alberta to all points south and will some day be the main route of travel between these points.

With her wonderful agricultural resources and the proven oil fields which give promise of major development the Del Bonita district looks to the future with great hopes as well as great possibilities.

A Message from . . .

## The Governor-General

THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF CANADA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
OTTAWA

28th January, 1949

Office of the Secretary to the Governor-General.

Dear Sir:

I am desired by the Governor-General to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st January, with further reference to the Magrath Golden Jubilee, which is to be observed next July.

The Governor-General has asked me to request that on the occasion of the Old Timers Banquet, which will take place in connection with the observance of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the inauguration of the irrigation system at Magrath, you convey to those present his regret at not being able to be with them, and his sincere congratulations and best wishes for every success in the future.

Yours sincerely,

H. F. G. LETSON,  
Major General.

Secretary to the Governor-General.

J. A. Spencer, Esq., Secretary,  
1949 Golden Jubilee Committee,  
Magrath, Alberta.

## Premier Manning Sends Congratulations

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER  
ALBERTA

Edmonton, May 10th, 1949

Chairman and Members of the  
Golden Jubilee Committee,  
Magrath, Alberta.

Gentlemen:

It is a pleasure for me at this time to wish you every success in your Golden Jubilee Celebration which you are planning for the month of July; it is a milestone in the life of any Town in a pioneering country.

Those early pioneers, who came to Southern Alberta to work on the irrigation canals and who had vision enough to realize that the Province of Alberta would offer opportunity unsurpassed any place in Canada, are to be congratulated. Mr. C. A. Magrath and Chris Jensen, who spent so much time and effort in the building up of that district, and also in the development of the Province, are a credit to the Town, and have enjoyed the respect and confidence of people all over the country.

The people in the district are to be congratulated on the success they have made of irrigation, the establishment of factories and development generally.

It is to be hoped that our present generation can enjoy the same vision and will be prepared to put forth the same effort in the development of our great country, where freedom and opportunity is their heritage.

Wishing you a successful celebration and continued success in your Town and District, I remain.

Yours very truly,

ERNEST MANNING,

Premier.

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## Jubilee Message from Senator Buchanan

I have watched Magrath grow up. It was a vigorous youngster when I came to Alberta in 1905, and all through the years it has progressed and prospered because of the faith and vision and industry of its people. Magrath deserves to be proud of its name. C. A. Magrath was a builder, and irrigation in Southern Alberta is one of his monuments. Then that other name, "The Garden City", that has been applied to Magrath for so long, is well deserved.

Magrath's past fifty years are nothing compared with what I believe will happen in its next fifty. Irrigation, the cornerstone of its past prosperity, is destined to grow in its service to the land, and many varied industries will be associated with this expansion.

Magrath does well to remember its pioneers, the men and women who shared in its early development. I am sure the achievements of bygone years will prove a stimulus for the future. Magrath hasn't stood still. It has moved ahead and it has provided the latest facilities for its people. That it believes in training its youth mentally and spiritually is proven by its modern schools and churches. These foundations are strong and lasting and give assurance that the Magrath of the years to come will keep pace with the Magrath that has gone through its first fifty years so successfully.

W. A. BUCHANAN.

Greetings from . . .

## Minister of Mines and Minerals

Edmonton, May 10th., 1949

Gentlemen:

As you are preparing for your Golden Jubilee Celebration on July 23rd, 24th and 25th, I felt that I should like to write and congratulate you on the work you are doing in commemoration of those pioneers who had the foresight and fortitude to come to a new country and build up such an attractive town in the middle of the prairies. Such men as Mr. C. A. Magrath and Mr. Chris Jensen, and others who have contributed so much to the development of that part of the country, are worthy of our deepest respect.

Magrath, as one of our first irrigation districts, has developed through the persistent efforts of its farmers, to the point where it is the centre of one of the canning industries, as well as being the home of the Golden Fleece Woollen Mill. It has well earned its name as "The Garden City" of the Province.

May your town grow and develop and continue to produce the fine type of citizens it has done in the past.

Wishing you a very successful celebration and continued prosperity, I remain.

Yours sincerely,

N. E. TANNER.

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## *A Message from John Blackmore, M.P.*

Magrath! Garden City of the South! One of Alberta's three first irrigation towns. A good town! Mother of men of aspiration; of inspiration; of determination; a good people! I salute you for Alberta, I salute you for Canada. In the name of generations unborn, I salute you.

In this your year of jubilee we rejoice with you.

We look back with you over the years, appreciative of your Elders who pioneered, men whose faith, whose courage, whose vision, whose diligence, fortitude and honor have made you great as you are. In heart-felt gratitude we join you.

And with you we look away to the future where your children shall play a potent part, mould the destiny of the glorious heritage which is Alberta, of the mighty power that will be Canada.

Magrath, we salute you!

## Our Indian Neighbors



View of the Home Ranch of Tom  
Three Persons near Magrath

Inset—Family around Family Car.



The history of the Indian of the Western Plain show him to be a freedom-loving man, devoted to his race and true to his friends, but wary of the stranger and intruder.

This phase of history has been verified in the association of the people of Magrath with our neighbours, the Blood Indian, living on the fertile stretch of land to the west of the St. Mary River.

While many of the Indians continue to live in tents, the trend today is for better living conditions and higher standard of living. The visitor to the Blood Indian Reserve will see today many well ordered and well stocked cattle ranches. Large tracts of their Reservation are under cultivation, producing abundant crops.

Two large schools are filled to capacity with their young people and the large and beautiful hospital near Cardston is giving them the medical care they have long been in need of.

## History of the Hutterite Brethern

The people of the Hutterite Colonies of Southern Alberta are followers of one Jacob Hutter, who advocated the theory of communal life, and because of his teachings and the intolerance which existed at the time, was burned at the stake at Innsbruck, Germany, in the year 1536 for heresy. His fate was the same as many others who had the courage of their convictions to express their religious beliefs which ran counter to those of the dominant church at the time.

His followers found refuge in certain parts of Germany and Russia until 1874 when they moved from Russia to South Dakota in the vicinity of Alexandria. They prospered materially in their new American homes until 1918, when as a result of persecution due to one of their religious beliefs "to abstain from shedding blood and having nothing to do with war", they sought refuge in Canada and got permission from the Dominion Government to enter and have their rights respected regarding their doctrine (conscientious objectors).

The first colony settled south of Raymond on the Ray Knight property and is known as the Milford or Buck Ranch Colony. Three other colonies settled near Magrath on property purchased from the McIntyre Ranching Company, the Old Elm, the New Elm and Rockport. From these colonies and others moving in later they have grown and expanded until there are at present nearly 40 colonies in Alberta; a few in Manitoba.

Recently, due to laws passed by Alberta Provincial Legislature restricting the purchase of lands within 40 miles of an existing colony,



View of a Colony

a number of these have split up and are located south of the border in Manitoba.

They are thrifty God-fearing people having a true Christian spirit. They do not exercise their franchise and are citizens of no country. They do not encourage sports or development of their talent along the line of arts or music or higher education.

They operate their own flour mills, make their own shoes and some of their clothes and furniture. Very few people have left the colonies and still fewer have joined. They are good neighbors in the main and their communal life, working together frees them from many worries which are common to people on the general road of life.

## Our Japanese Residents

When as a precautionary measure the Canadian Government evacuated many of the Japanese people from the West Coast area, some thirty-five families were placed in the Magrath district. Among their many abilities, these people were skilled in the art of agriculture, so played a very vital part in the production of canning crops and sugar beets as well as other industries at the time of scarcity of labor.



They were given a cordial reception; their children were placed in our schools and all were treated on a basis of equality. In return they responded with the same cordial spirit and demonstrated a very co-operative attitude. In the ensuing years they have come to look upon Alberta as their home and very few of them entertain ideas of returning to their previous home in British Columbia.

The 1949 Graduation Class of Magrath High School includes six Japanese students.

Their young men organized a baseball team and were the winners of the "Sugar Bowl League" for their year of 1948 (see picture.)

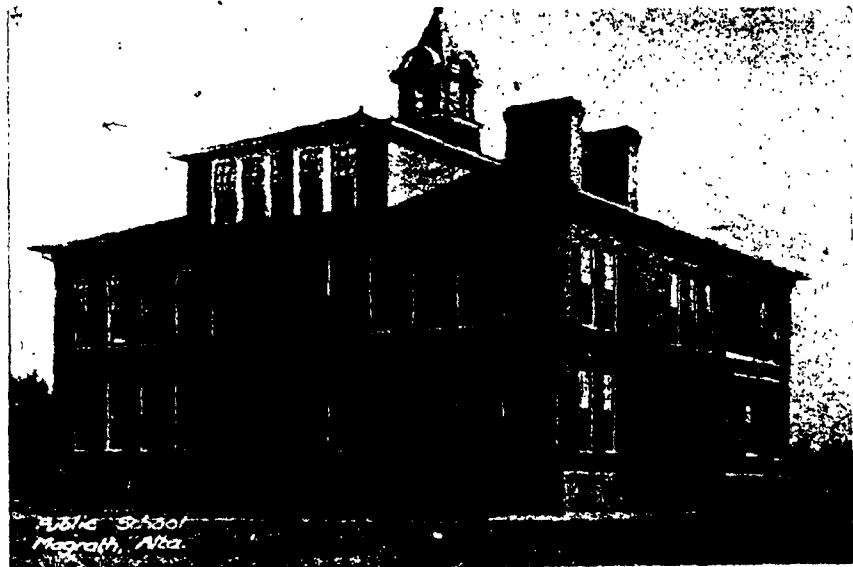


## Our Schools



Today Magrath boasts two well equipped schools, the Public School erected in 1909, which housed both public and high school until the erection of the High School building in 1929. These schools are attended by the students of Magrath and district. Six school vans bring the pupils from former rural school districts, St. Mary's Lehi, Farmhill, LaPrairie and Bradshaw.

The courses offered in the Magrath schools cover a wide variety of subjects so that students may get a good foundation for whatever vocation they may choose, be it laborer, nursing, commerce or any of the branches of higher learning.





Magrath's Churches

## Our Churches

### *The United Church of Canada*

By Rev. W. Ward

The early days of the Magrath congregation of the United Church were under the supervision of the then Presbyterian Church, the beginning of that work going back to the very early years of the century and possibly to the late 90's of the 19th century.

In 1904 the Rev. Chas. McKillop of Lethbridge met with some people to hold services, which services were held in the old school and occasionally in homes of the people. A Rev. Mr. Gordon is reputed to have held occasional services before Mr. McKillop's time. In 1908 services were under the supervision of Rev. Mr. Cameron, during whose ministry first steps were taken to build a church. A meeting at the home of a Mrs. Miller finally decided on a site and committees were set up to carry through plans regarding financing, etc. In February of 1909 the first sod for foundation was turned and on the third Sunday of April of that year the church was formally opened for services with Rev. Mr. Cameron in charge for the Presbytery, along with Rev. Mr. Gordon of Lethbridge. A choir, under leadership of Mr. Baxter, with helpers from Raymond, etc., assisted. Among the folk helping at that time we find the names of Baxters, Prydes, Hoods, Deglows, Roberts, Swette, Green, etc. In October of 1909 the Ladies' Aid was organized at a meeting at the home of Mrs. Dr. Sanders, with Rev. D. Smith as chairman, first president being Mrs. C. Wyman, Vice-President Mrs. Deglow; Secretary-treasurer Miss N. Whitt. First supper was held at the Mormon meeting house with proceeds of \$165.00. Early members of the Aid were Mrs. Deglow, Miss Whitt, Mrs. T. Smith, Mrs. Rice, Mrs. Lloyd and Mrs. T. Minor. Names of ministers and students include a Mr. Wilson, D. Smith, David Smith, W. B. Smith, the last two being brothers. W. B. was ordained while resident here. The manse was built in 1918. Other ministers since that time were Mr. Inglis, Mr. Matherson, G. H. Barrett, Mr. Woods, and in 1927 Rev. J. A. Claxton became minister, followed by Mr. Thorpe, Mr. Lavers, Mr. Marston, Mr. Larke, and the present minister, Mr. Ward.

In 1925 the three Dominion-wide churches, Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian united to form what we now know as the United Church of Canada.

Names of other associated with those early days include Mrs. Saunders, Sr., Mrs. Ownes, Sr., Mrs. Fulwood, Mrs. Heathershaw, Mrs. Pryde and Mrs. Spellman. Sunday School workers included Mr. Roberts, Baxter, Allan Bowes, Miss Coutts, Miss Haigh, Miss McCrae. The latter married a man by the name of McCrae, who was the writer of "In Flanders' Fields."

The present church was started during the ministry of Rev. W. P. Marston and finished under the ministry of Rev. A. E. Larke, being opened for worship in April of 1947.

Present supporters and workers include the following, T. Carter, J. Robinson, W. Scott, Mrs. J. Hocking, Mrs. W. Rice, Mrs. T. Carter, Mrs. J. F. Grant, Mrs. O. Owens, Mrs. F. N. Robinson, Mrs. H. Austin, Mrs. R. Rice, Mrs. A. Owens. Much of the credit for the new building goes to one who left the neighborhood two years ago, Mrs. G. Balderson, who labored in season and out, in efforts to bring the project to a successful issue, and in this was ably seconded by men like O. Owens and T. Carter, as well as the other members of the Board and congregation and the indefatigable members of the Ladies' Aid, headed through this period by Mrs. W. Rice.

Incidentally there has always been excellent co-operation with the friends of the L.D.S. congregations under their various bishops, etc.

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### *St. John's Lutheran Church*

By Rev. V. Eichenlaub

The Lutheran Church of Magrath looks back upon a history of over forty years. Shortly after the turn of the century a few Lutheran families moved into the Magrath district. Some of them came from the United States, others from Europe. Among the charter members the congregation lists the names of families whose descendants or who themselves still live in the Magrath district. Here are the names of some: Wm. Arndt, the late Charles Gottlob and Louis Feller, Henry Hillmer, Hugo Hillmer, Victor Hillmer and the late C. Loose.

The first Lutheran services were held in 1908 by the Rev. Wehmeyer, then pastor at Pincher Creek. For some time those services were held in private homes. Later the Presbyterian church was rented for that purpose. After the church was sold, the congregation conducted services in the basement of the Assembly Hall. Since July 18, 1948, the congregation has worshipped in its new church.

Members of the congregation are delighted with their new church and its fine furnishings. Pews, altar, pulpit and baptismal font are of hardwood. The dorsal curtain as well as the altar and pulpit hangings are made of the finest brocades. The ornamental window in the shape of a cross with colored glass is especially attractive. The chancel floor and the church aisle is covered with rich carpets. An electric organ helps to enhance the services.

The church and its furnishings cost over \$10,000. This amount was donated by the members. In addition thousands of hours of voluntary labor went into the building. Mr. Erven Loose was in charge of the building project.

St. John's Lutheran congregation never had a resident pastor but has always been served by the minister in charge of the Lethbridge Lutheran Church. After Rev. Wehmeyer left the congregation was in charge of Rev. H. Zehe during 1910, and Rev. O. A. Groth from 1911 to 1913. He was succeeded by Pastor H. J. Elling from 1914 to 1919. Rev. E. H. Krieger served from 1920 to 1923. From 1923 to 1929 the Rev. M. Cohrs was its minister. His successor was Rev. W. Trinklein from 1929 to 1931. The present pastor, Rev. V. Eichenlaub, was installed on August 2, 1931, and has served the congregation ever since.

St. John's Lutheran looks confidently into the future knowing that Christ, the Head of the Church, will guide and bless it in the years to come.

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## Nearby Attractions

### McINTYRE RANCH



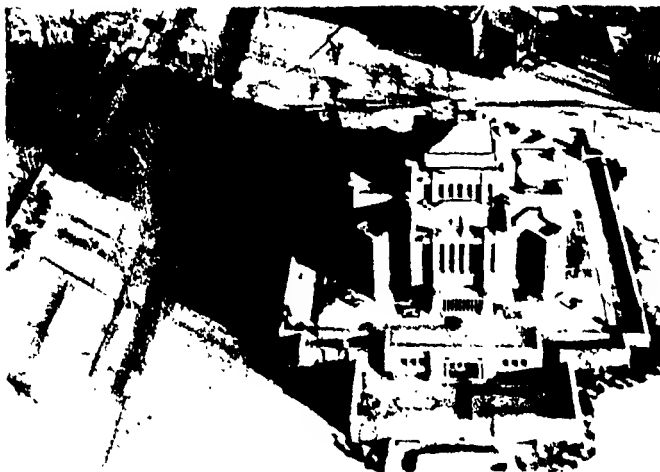
Famous for its wonderful cattle, the prize winning Herefords. One of the best organized cattle ranches in the west. The farm home nestled under the protection of the Milk River Ridge is a beauty spot of Southern Alberta.

### THE TWO LARGE IRRIGATION RESERVOIRS

Upon the doorstep of Magrath lie two of the largest dams in Western Canada. These projects, while undertaken for irrigation

purposes will in a few years be improved with parks, the reservoirs will be stock with fish and will provide a pleasure resort for the surrounding community.

### CARDSTON TEMPLE



About 30 miles to the southwest of Magrath lies the Temple City of Cardston. It was the pioneer Mormon settlement of Canada. Its Temple is a monument to them and their work. It is the pride of the Mormon people as well as a major tourist attraction.

### WATERTON PARK



Less than two hours distance from Magrath lies the scenic beauties of Wonderful Waterton, where one may relax under towering mountains, or revel in pitting his strength against the wonders of nature.

## Sports

One of Magrath's most successful and interesting activities since her birth has been sport. Many of Southern Alberta's top-rate athletes and teams have been produced in the Garden City through her continued participation in organized leagues and contests.

Years ago Magrath organized an Athletic Association which took them to the fore in such fields as boxing, wrestling and baseball. Throughout the depression years and the Second World War this organization more or less died. However, in 1946 many felt the urgent need for an organized body to direct sport in Magrath and consequently a new organization was formed, called the Magrath Amateur Athletic Association. They immediately assumed the responsibility of directing the various lines of sport in Magrath, and each year since have gained recognition in effectively sponsoring most lines of sport activities both competitive and recreational. In the past four years they have sponsored the following:

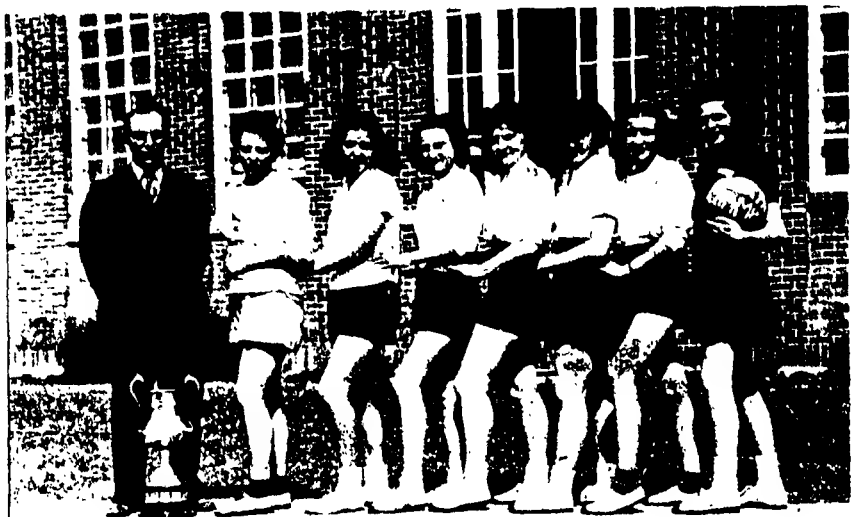
1. Senior men's basketball
2. Intermediate men's basketball
3. Senior baseball
4. Junior baseball
5. Boxing
6. Tennis
7. Badminton
8. Tumbling
9. Hockey

Under the very able direction of executives chosen by M.A.A.A. to lead these different branches of sport, and their resulting achievements, Magrath is definitely being recognized as one of Alberta's leading sports towns.

Although we could spend much time talking about various teams and their accomplishments, about individual athletes such as boxers Len Harris, Glen Card, Ralph Harker, Glen Holman, Elden Coleman, Don Hunter, Ralph Sabey and several others who have all won Provincial titles, we turn to Senior Men's Basketball for two reasons. First because basketball covers by far the largest organized athletic field in Alberta. Second—because perhaps Magrath has gained more recognition through this particular line of sport than any other.

After Magrath's new high school was built in 1929 with a gym (now inadequate) included, it wasn't long before the tireless efforts of coaches and players paid off with a Provincial High School Championship. Under coaches like Grant Woolley, Glen Miller, Jay Hamilton, Fred Turner, Jim Blumel and some we have surely missed, Magrath gained more than their share of Provincial High School honors.

## M. H. S. ZENITHETTES - ALBERTA CHAMPIONS 1944 AND 1945



V. E. Böhnet, coach; Ida Johnson, Nola Matkin, Mary Lou Ririe, Ramona Clarke, Darlene Sabey, Marianne Ririe, Emma Lou Briggs (captain).

Through natural progress this fine talent tempted Magrath to enter the Senior Men's Basketball field. They faced many discouraging obstacles—mostly the Raymond Union Jacks, the team who had dominated senior basketball in Alberta for many years.

The Magrath "Lions" born in 1940 at once became Raymond's most bitter rivals, and some say "at times they are even unfriendly". In 1940 the "Lions" won their first Provincial Championship. Until 1947-48 these honors were taken by Edmonton's U.S. "Army Engineers", the Raymond Union Jacks and Edmonton U. of A. Golden Bears.

In 1947-48 after Raymond had won the league Magrath went into playoffs with the Sugar City quint, winning the three-of-five series 3 to 1. This gave them the Alberta crown. The "Lions" then represented Alberta in a Western Canadian semi-final against the Vancouver Cloverleaves. In this series each team won a game but Magrath were defeated 123-106 in the two game total-point series. (Agreed as an unfair method of determining a winner). Personnel on this squad were as follows:

Players: Max Sabey, Wes Rice, Elden Coleman, Jack Harker, Dick Sabey, Blair Sabey, Walt Pashuk, Phil Proctor, Gordon Rice, Tom Karren (replacement).

Coach: Lloyd Sabey.

Manager: Dean Bennett.

In 1948-49 the "Lions" had an exceptional year. Their league record speaks for itself. Magrath won 16 out of the 18 games played.





Back row—Phil. Procter, "Dick" Sabey, Max Sabey, Burns Sabey (three brothers), Eldon Coleman.

Second row—Cal. Alstan, Walt Pashuk, Jack Harker, Blair Sabey, Wes. Rice.

Kneeling—Lloyd Sabey (coach); Dean Bennett (manager).

Midway through the season the Alberta Canning Company became co-sponsors of the team, along with the M.A.A.A. This brought about a new name, the "A.C.C. Rockets".

When playoff time rolled around very keen competition resulted when the two old rivals—Raymond and Magrath—again matched strides in what resulted in a most torrid playoff series. Magrath won 3 to 2.

They then met the Edmonton "Meteors" in the Alberta finals, a very strong aggregation from the north. This was a ding dong series all the way. The "Meteors" won the second game, while the "Rockets" had to play stellar ball to take the first and third tussles, and once again capture the coveted senior trophy for Alberta.

Magrath then brought the Winnipeg "Paulins", Manitoba senior titlists, in for the Western Canadian semi-finals. In the first game of this series Winnipeg made no mistakes, while big centre Max Sabey was sidelined and rolled up a substantial 20 point lead. The "Rockets", however, made a terrific comeback in the second game and on occasions were within two points of closing the wide first night gap in this total-point series. The uphill battle proved too steep. Winnipeg's decided size advantage (average height 6' 3") and her

first game point lead, were the deciding factors in her bitterly fought victory. Thy won the round by six points and the right to advance into the Western Canadian finals at Vancouver.

At this point we must take time out to congratulate Coach Lloyd Sabey, Manager Dean Bennet and their boys for their determined spirit and fine performances throughout the year 1948-49. Although they did not advance to Dominion playoffs as hoped, players like Max Sabey, Wes Rice, Blair Sabey, Eldon Coleman, Dick Sabey, Jack Harker, Walt Pashuk, Burns Sabey, Phil Proctor and Cal Alston (complete 1949 roster) were endeared to the hearts of their basketball supporters. Lloyd Sabey and Dean Bennett had no regrets, they piloted a club they well could be proud of—one of the best to ever come out of Alberta.

Something new was offered the public in all playoff games staged in Magrath this year. The Alberta Canning Co. created a new and far reaching interest in basketball for Alberta and other Western Canadian centres by broadcasting over CJOC, Lethbridge, all playoff fixtures. Thanks to Horace Salisbury and his Canning Company who are now co-sponsors of Magrath's A.C.C. "Rockets".

Now then, in this the Jubilee year of Magrath, we insist on giving you a few brief facts concerning sport in the Garden City.

1. If you like swimming, come to Magrath. They boast one of the very best pools in Alberta built by the local Lions Club.

2. If you like golf, come to Magrath. She has a beautiful little nine-hole course—the envy of all Southern Alberta.

3. If you like baseball, come to Magrath. We have one of the best ball parks in the south and three of the best teams, the Senior and Junior Eagles and Evaks.

4. If you like boxing, come to Magrath. The 1948-49 card was one of the best ever seen in these parts. They'll stage a similar one this season.

5. If you like skating and hockey, you can get it at Magrath.

6. If you like curling, come to Magrath. They are building a new rink in the Jubilee year.

7. If you like basketball, come to Magrath. They cover a complete field—high school girls, A and B boys, Junior, Intermediate and Senior. They hope to be in a new gymnasium in the near future.

8. If you like tennis, come to Magrath. We have some fine courts, lonesome for players with the urge to play the game.

9. If you like hunting and fishing, come to Magrath. They boast one of the largest and strongest Rod & Gun Clubs in Alberta.

10. If you like badminton, come to Magrath. They have an active club all season.

11. If you like tumbling and gymnastics, Magrath can give you full benefits under some of the most capable directors in this district.

Magrath's sports future is indeed bright!

MAGRATH EVAKS



Magrath Juveniles—Winners of McPhee Trophy, Chinook Hockey League.





MAGRATH LIONS

*Congratulate*

the

"Garden City"

on it's

*Golden Jubilee*



Patronize The Lions Swimming Pool When Visiting  
Magrath

## Rod and Gun

One of Magrath's youngest clubs, yet the one boasting the highest membership of all, is the Magrath Rod and Gun Club. This organization, composed of some one hundred and fifty sportsmen, banded together for the purpose of conservation and propagation of fish and game, rallies its ranks from Cardston, Lethbridge, Spring Coulee, Del Bonita, Welling, Raymond and of course the Garden City. Outside membership is accounted for solely by the fact that these men are interested in an active club. That the club is active is amply demonstrated by the large turnouts at the monthly meetings and by the wide variety of its accomplishments of which they are very proud.

Foremost among the aims of the club is to provide better hunting and fishing in our district; to see that game laws are upheld in all seasons of the year; and to further in every way possible the propagation and conservation of wild game. The late Jack Minor put it very well when he said, "The best sportsmen are not those coming home with the largest bag, but those who have an eye for the future."

With this view in mind the club has established a Pheasant Preserve situated south of the town in an ideal location. It includes the valley of the Pot Hole Creek, the Town Herd Pasture and all adjacent farms. Last year the club released in this preserve one hundred and twenty-five Chinese pheasants, young birds, and they have been thriving wonderfully. If the spring hatch at the Brooks Hatchery is satisfactory our allotment this year will be about one thousand birds.

In the matter of pheasant population and good hunting grounds, Magrath promises to rank second to none in the immediate future, and to attract sportsmen from far and near.

Another project of major importance in which the club has shown great interest is the East Pot Hole Coulee Dam. Here on the shores of the big reservoir the club has pledged itself to the erection and maintenance of "The Pot Hole Coulee Park," where young and old alike may go in the summer months to enjoy the pleasures of such a park. Boating on the lake has already proved very attractive, waterfowl are there in abundance and some varieties of fish are already evident. Immediate plans for the reservoir include the stocking of it with game fish. For this purpose the club has voted a sum of money to purchase a rearing pond at the Pincher Creek Fish Hatcheries, where they will have access to thousands of fingerlings annually.

When one surveys the whole area and investigates all of the facts and possibilities he cannot help but conclude that Magrath, the "Garden City," is soon to be also the "Sportsmen's Paradise."



## Prospectus For Magrath

By INEZ RICH BENNETT

More than fifty years ago a horseman, riding the prairie some ten miles south of what was to become the town of Magrath, viewed the treeless landscape, the mile upon mile of bluejoint grass undulating in waves with the steady west wind. No fences, no roads; just trails across the prairie; no sign to portend the future of the landscape that stretched unbroken to the horizon. That rider was the late Levi Harker. He told the writer that as he rode and looked north from his vantage point on the northern slope of the Milk River Ridge, which became McIntyre Ranch property, that suddenly he felt impelled to stop his horse and look north, when a "vision" opened to his view. At that time Magrath was unknown. He saw the country criss-crossed with wire fences, divided into fields, prosperous farms; well travelled roads ran between the section lines; a canal wound its way along the slope of Milk River Ridge and fields of golden grain were everywhere. Interspersed, were green fields as of sugar beets or hay. Prosperous farmsteads dotted the fields. On the north bank of Pot Hole Creek he saw a prosperous town with beautiful trees and comfortable homes. He looked in wonder as he saw beneath the soil rich reservoirs of gas and oil, potential wealth of the future. A voice seemed to say, "You will see all this come to pass and more." The vision faded. The wind blew in his face, bent the prairie grass eastward as he turned his horse west toward Cardston and home.



Prairie Woollen Mills Limited.

Later he pondered that vision—could it be that his mind had conjured it up as he paused that day to reflect? Or did he actually see into the future of those miles of waving grass a distinct departure from the past? He rode the range again, herding sheep on those same hills, but the vision never came again. He could only wait for the future to tell whether or not he had been given a heaven-sent view of the future development of that nameless district.

A few years later that same horseman, strangely enough, that same Levi Harker, was called by his Church to help settle the town of Magrath, located on Pot Hole Creek, and so named in honor of Charles A. Magrath who gave a section of land to the people for a townsite. So began the development of a town on the same site seen by Levi Harker in vision as he rode the range many years before. He lived to see completion of the canal those early settlers constructed, to see the district criss-crossed with wire fences, well-travelled roads along the section lines, prosperous farmsteads, beautiful trees and gardens in town, and comfortable homes, yes, even to see development of coal mines, to own one and develop it, and to see oil companies drill for oil in the district, and to find it in commercial quantities south of Magrath. He died in 1939. What of the Future?

Today Magrath district boasts about 1500 souls and with expansion of irrigation through use of the recently completed East Pot Hole Storage Reservoir that will hold 15,000 acre feet of "live storage" water for discharge into irrigation canals, Magrath could support ten times the present population. Today Magrath is a far cry from the few small houses and dirt-roofed dugouts of those early days.

Magrath is a modern town with modern facilities, pure water, good drainage, electric lights and power, a small modern hospital with prospects of a new one this year, bigger, more modern; a vegetable cannery, progressive woollen mill, modern cold storage lockers, a sash and door factory almost ready for operation, a growing business district and is located in one of the best hard wheat producing areas in the world. Farm and ranch products include beef, pork, mutton, wool, dairy products, poultry, sugar beets, canning crops and canning crop seeds, the best flavored vegetables and small fruits grown anywhere, and soil that produces good crops with very little if any fertilizer except in the irrigated districts where fertilizer has proven beneficial.

A railroad and transport service take its products to the world's markets. A modern bus line provides its people with additional transportation service. Its people are neighborly, considerate Christian people. Five Churches representing four religious denominations grace the townsite. Two large schools with progressive staffs teach its youth the three Rs. Many of its youth have distinguished themselves in the fields of higher education and professional accomplishments, and are now engaged in their various professions in many parts of the United States and Canada.

What of the Future? Has this district possibilities for future development, future accomplishment, future growth? Definitely YES.





*Sugar Beets at Magrath Loading Station*

Wonderful development! Marvelous accomplishment! Immense growth! Yes, the future of Magrath is bright with promise. Of what?

More business establishments, more canneries, more factories. Possibly a potato starch factory; why not? Probably a plant for the manufacture of strawboard, a feasible, practical, proven building material which could be made from wheat straw ordinarily wasted or burned in the district.

In time Magrath with additional irrigation and population could support a sugar factory, a clothing factory using woollen cloth made in our own woollen mills. Why not a pickle plant? Local housewives do all kinds of pickling from their own gardens, delicious pickles too, so why not a pickle plant? Magrath has rich coal deposits, both strip mines and pit mines. Why not a nylon hose factory. We've got plenty of coal, air and water, from which those dainty hose are made. Undoubtedly from experimental drillings of the past, gas and oil lie in rich deposits beneath the district farms and ranches. With development of these, why not an oil refinery, a plant for distribution of natural gas? Then we could keep our lamps trimmed and burning at all times.

There are prospects that Magrath will soon have a hard-surfaced all-weather road for tourist attraction. What about an attractive tourist camp? Immigrants are already arriving to increase the population in addition to the regular contributions of local residents. More people need more food which means more stores, more farms, more

and better public services, bigger and better business districts, increased transportation facilities, bigger and better recreational facilities. That promised curling rink and large addition to our fine Recreation Hall, with regulation basketball court, will delight local Athletic Association officials and sportsmen. Wild fowl preserves will in time make of Magrath district a Sportsman's Paradise.

Already plans are under way to begin this year to establish a pleasure resort on the shores of Pot Hole reservoir; to plant trees and shrubs on the site and stock the lake with fresh water fish. Literally hundreds of ideas for community betterment are floating around the district. New schools, more modern facilities for entertainment and recreation, for saving time and providing additional leisure time and using that leisure time to worthwhile advantage.

We take off our hat to Levi Harker, Magrath's first Mayor. His vision was no illusion; it has become a reality. We trust he will not in future be disappointed with the community he loved and served so faithfully and well. We take off our hats to those early pioneers who laid the foundations of our present prosperous community. We take off our hats to the present progressive Mayor and Town Council, and to the progressive citizens who by their co-operation and foresightedness seek for civic betterment without petty prejudice over small nothings, but ever try to seek that higher civic-mindedness that promotes peace and goodwill to all for the good of all. Long live Magrath, The Garden City of Alberta!

#### MAGRATH HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASS 1948



Boys, left to right—Lester Deglow, Morgon Ririe, Alan Anderson, Robert Balderson, Victor Pashuk, Watson Ririe. (Ted Clifton absent).

Girls, left to right—Barbara Ririe, Lavina Keeler, Dawn Robinson, Shirley Clarke, Gloria Harker, Amy Spencer, Miche A. Mikami, Lavern Harris. (Ethel Gibb absent).



- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Bank of Montreal              | J. Grant   |
| Barber Shops                  | M. Cook; Bill Harker.  |
| Bakery                        | Mrs. Cicelia Dudley.   |
| Builders and Contractors:     | D. T. Nelson & Sons, A. B. Chrchfield & Sons, L. Ehlert, Anderson & Anderson.  |
| Beauty Salon                  | Ruth Anderson.   |
| Blacksmiths                   | N. Christensen; H. James.  |
| Bulk Oil Dealers              | N. E. Blaxall; L. A. Sheridan.   |
| Photographer                  | D. Cahoon.   |
| Cold Storage Locker Plant     | S. Sorensen (Co-op.)   |
| Passey Dairy                  | W. T. Passey Jr.   |
| Magrath Pharmacy              | I. C. Fletcher.  |
| Elevators:                    | Alberta Pacific Grain Co., C. Spence; Alberta Wheat Pool, (Slim) Lawlor; Ellison Milling Co., J. C. Robinson; Ogilvie's, J. Alston; Parish & Heimbecker, B. Harker.                        |
| Duane's Electric              | Duane Harker.  |
| Thomson's Electric            | Rulon Thomson.   |
| Garages and Service Stations: | Carter Garage, T. A. Carter; Tomlinson Garage, E. Tomlinson; Garden City Motors, J. A. Hamilton; Magrath Motors, Ross Whitehead; Shady Nook Service, E. E. James; 77 Oil Service, M. Heap. |
| General Stores:               | Magrath Trading Co., J. A. Ririe; Sabey's, Lee Harker.   |
| Tanner's Hardware             | E. P. Tanner Jr.   |
| Ireta's Style Shop            | Mrs. C. S. Matkin.   |
| Magrath Municipal Hospital:   | T. A. Carter, Chairman of Board;   |

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Lions Club	J. T. Steele, Secy.
Red Cross Organization	C. S. Matkin.
Physicians and Surgeons	Drs. Walker & Brewerton
Magrath Mirror	Editor, J. M. Sabey.
Machine Agencies: John Deere, Earl Harker; Massey-Harris, J. F. Hamilton & Sons; Cockshutt, J. C. Robinson & Son; International, Magrath Co-op, A. Poulsen.	
Manufacturing Establishments: Golden Fleece Woollen Mills, Mr. Philips; Alberta Canning Company, G. Coleman, local manager; Magrath Sash & Door Factory, E. P. Tahner.	
Post Master	H. S. Taylor.
Pool Hall	M. Stogrin.
Restaurants and Cafes: Denny's Own, D. Fletcher; Magrath Cafe, Sherba's Cafe, Lunch Bar, D. Mikado; Charley's, C. Chong; Sabey's F. Sabey.	
Ehlert's Radio Shop	L. Ehlert.
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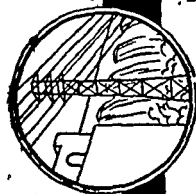
## *Greetings to Magrath on it's 50th Anniversary*

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